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Students talk gay-straight alliance

One transgender student says GSA created a 'completely different world'

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'It's a really sick and twisted day for it to happen'

Prostitution bill comes into effect on École Polytechnique anniversary

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Animal house

Not quite like the movie. Dalhousie students in Nova Scotia relax at the school's Puppy Room with red-vested therapy dogs as exams draw closer

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DRESS TO IMPRESS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

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BREEDER-PUP MYSTERY

Controversy brews over a new pet store's breeder pups. A store tour reveals how they are treated, but where they come from remains a mystery. See story, page 6. HELEN PIKE/METRO

'Citywide' suite support: Data

Take a look. The map of supporters is online at metronews.ca

More than 2,000 people have now attached their names to a petition in favour of more broadly legalized secondary suites in Calgary, but it's their addresses that have supporters optimistic that substantive change on the long-standing and controversial issue will come soon.

Rather than being primarily concentrated in the city centre, the addresses are spread out relatively evenly across Calgary — at least more so than Greg Miller had been expecting.

"We're just quite surprised," said Miller, a member of Calgarians for Secondary Suites, a citizen group that has been lobbying since September to loosen Calgary's relatively restrictive laws on separate suites within homes.

"If you look at it, it's pretty broad-based," Miller said of addresses' geographic distribution, overlaid on a map of Calgary. "This has support, really, citywide. It doesn't fall along sort-of traditional divides."

Coun. Druh Farrell, who in June introduced a motion to legalize secondary suites in four inner-city wards and within 600 metres of major transit routes, now believes the debate has "moved beyond" that.

"Now there seems to be more acceptance for a citywide solution, which is preferable to me anyway," she said Wednesday.

But Coun. Richard Pootmans reiterated his opposition to major changes in areas where secondary suites are not currently permitted, saying he's heard a "pretty clear message" from constituents in his western Ward 6.

"Where I have to draw a line in the sand is the notion of blanket rezoning," Pootmans said Wednesday, noting his ward has the highest concentration of R1-zoned (single family only) areas in the city.

Farrell's initial motion to legalize suites in Wards 7, 8, 9, and 11 was repeatedly delayed and then put aside in September in favour of a new proposal to create a streamlined mechanism for approving suites based on both community input and safety standards. The new proposal is due before council on Dec. 15.

Currently, city council must approve applications one-by-one in a sometimes "embarrassing" process, according to Farrell, who recalled one particular public hearing on a suite application earlier this year.

"Religion came up, ethnicity came up," she said. "That was an embarrassing moment for everyone, I think."

Farrell also noted that while Calgary's social agencies have long supported secondary suites, more business leaders are in support of relaxed rules.

Support for "a wide variety" of housing options is one of the "key messages" of the Calgary chapter of the Canadian Home Builders' Association, CEO Donna Moore said.

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Fees may be reduced due to 'chronic' busing issues

Catholic district.
Some frustrated parents now forced to drive kids to school

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Catholic school officials say they're mulling a roll-back on bus fees for parents complaining of "chronic" issues with service that have dragged on for months.

Emails provided to Metro indicate a handful of parents with youngsters attending the Ecole Holy Name regional French-immersion school are refusing to pay for service amid claims that the bus has been severely delayed — or hasn't shown up at all — 24 times over a period of 57 school days dating back to mid-September.

"There have been days where it has been so late that they might as well have not even bothered running the route," said mother Linda Van Ham, who lives in Glendale Meadows and counts herself among those refusing to fork over the busing fees for her son. "On Monday, it was 90 minutes late.... In my world that's not providing service."

In past interviews, officials with bus carriers Southland Transportation and First Student Canada have said this year has proven a particularly challenging one when it comes to recruiting and retaining drivers.

By the numbers

Parents with elementary-aged students riding the bus to and from Calgary Catholic School District buildings pay $215 per year to a maximum rate of $430 per family.

Compounding the problem is a swarm of 5,000 or more additional students between the Calgary Board of Education and Calgary Catholic School District — many of those kids are moving into newer neighbourhoods where no school exists and are bused into inner-city areas.

The bus for Ecole Holy Name is run by Southland, but officials didn't return a call for comment Wednesday.

Catholic district spokesperson Sean Myers, however, did concede that there has been a "chronic issue" when it comes to busing at the school. He said senior transportation officials have been in contact with the school's principal since the start to work on solutions, and a new driver was brought on to service the route in mid-November.

"We have every confidence that we'll see an improvement there, but it's certainly not the only school that is seeing these kind of issues," Myers said.

He said too that the district hadn't been made aware of parents refusing to pay their bus fees in protest of the poor service, but said some requests had been made for a reduced rate to be charged.

"We'll certainly consider those requests and see where it goes," Myers said.

The CBE, meanwhile, also said it had started "internal conversations" on what can be done to aid families impacted by poor bus service this fall.

"We are aware of the issue of late buses and we know the impact this has on our families," read an emailed statement. "We continue to work closely with our carriers and resources available to identify improvements that can be made."

But some parents have said in recent months that they've given up on the service and are now driving their kids. Included in that crowd is mother Signe Spence, who lives in Richmond Hill and has a son attending Ecole Holy Name.

"We tried it in September but it wasn't even worth it.... I kept getting emails that the bus wasn't coming," she said. "It would be nice to put him on the bus and get him used to it. It's better than parents all parking at the school."

Carriers have said keeping drivers behind the wheel of school buses like these has been a major challenge this fall.
METRO FILE

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GSA created a 'completely different world': Student

Forest Lawn High School. Students reflect on troubles in school community and changes brought by their GSA

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Alexis Hood, left, Alex Hunt, Michel Thrun and Sam Dyck are all members of the gay-straight alliance at Forest Lawn High School. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

"We were being shoved into lockers, having death threats — I was actually followed home once because they were targeting me," said Alexis Hood, a transgender student at Forest Lawn High School.

Desperate for change, Hood took it upon herself a few years ago to steer a revival of the school's gay-straight alliance (GSA), which had formed six or more years ago but faded away over time.

The new alliance was small at first; the number of members could be counted on one hand. However, this fall more than 20 students — gay, straight and transgender — have turned up to meetings, said Sam Dyck, a fellow transgender student.

The GSA has held bake sales, T-shirt contests and is shooting a video that will serve as the centrepiece of a social media campaign currently dubbed #SafeAB. Members have pasted stickers touting diversity to their identification cards and wear pride buttons on their backpacks.

Grade 12 student Michel Thrun has watched in awe as his school community evolved.

"My Grade 10 year, I would just feel this pressure, stigma about people who were not straight," Thrun said. "Last year, it started to slowly diminish and this year it feels a whole lot more welcoming. Ultimately, it's become a safer, better environment."

Dyck agreed.

"It's a completely different world," he said. "Instead of us being invisible in the school and hiding out, it has changed the whole perception of our school. We're out there, we have buttons on our bags, stickers on our lanyards ... it makes the whole school vibe more inclusive."

The students have been watching closely as the governing Tories introduced a bill to pre-empt Bill 202, proposed by the Alberta Liberals. Bill 202 would have required school boards to support the establishment of groups just like theirs.

Instead, the government has said its own Bill 10 would revoke the rights of parents to pull their children from class if sexual orientation was being discussed and would also provide students with a legal avenue to appeal a decision blocking a GSA in their own school.

Critics, however, have questioned whether students would have the financial means and knowledge to take their school board to court, should it come to that.

The four students from that group speaking to Metro Wednesday said Liberal Bill 202 was a far better option.

"They can stop schools from doing GSAs, but they can't stop kids from knowing who they are," said Alex Hunt, also a transgender student.

Hood, meanwhile, specifically addressed the 42 MLAs who voted in favour of a second reading of Bill 10 Tuesday.

"If they're seriously voting that way, they need to get out of their office and into the school and come see the situation for themselves because they're obviously not connected whatsoever to the community they're supposedly representing," she said.

An issue of safety

"It's not about who's gay, who's straight, it's about safety and the government not reflecting what the people want." Forest Lawn student Sam Dyck, on the approval of Bill 10 over Bill 202

By the numbers

94

The Alberta government has said there are 94 GSAs based in provincial schools. Of those, 25 operate in CBE schools, including the one at Forest Lawn.

GSAs

Amendment may create group of 'separate but equal' schoolkids

The Alberta government, facing mounting resistance on a controversial bill, put forward an amendment Wednesday that would effectively segregate gay schoolkids who want to form support clubs.

The amendment stipulates that if a school disallows a gay-straight alliance, the government would create one for students.

Opposition politicians called that a revival of the reviled "separate but equal" Jim Crow laws used in the U.S. to segregate and degrade African-Americans.

PC backbencher Sandra Jansen, who brought the amendment forward, lashed back.

"Our end goal here is very simple," she said. "We are trying to make sure that every child in every school in this province has the opportunity to take part in a (gay-straight alliance)."

The amendment was introduced by the PCs to try to recapture the political initiative on the issue.

GSAs, while operating in many public schools in Edmonton and Calgary, have met fierce resistance from officials in faith-based and rural schools.

The Tories, facing an opposition private member's bill this session that would order all schools to set up GSAs if students wish them, replaced it with Bill 10.

Bill 10 does not give students the right to set up the GSAs but instead leaves the final decision to the school and school board, with ultimate recourse to the courts. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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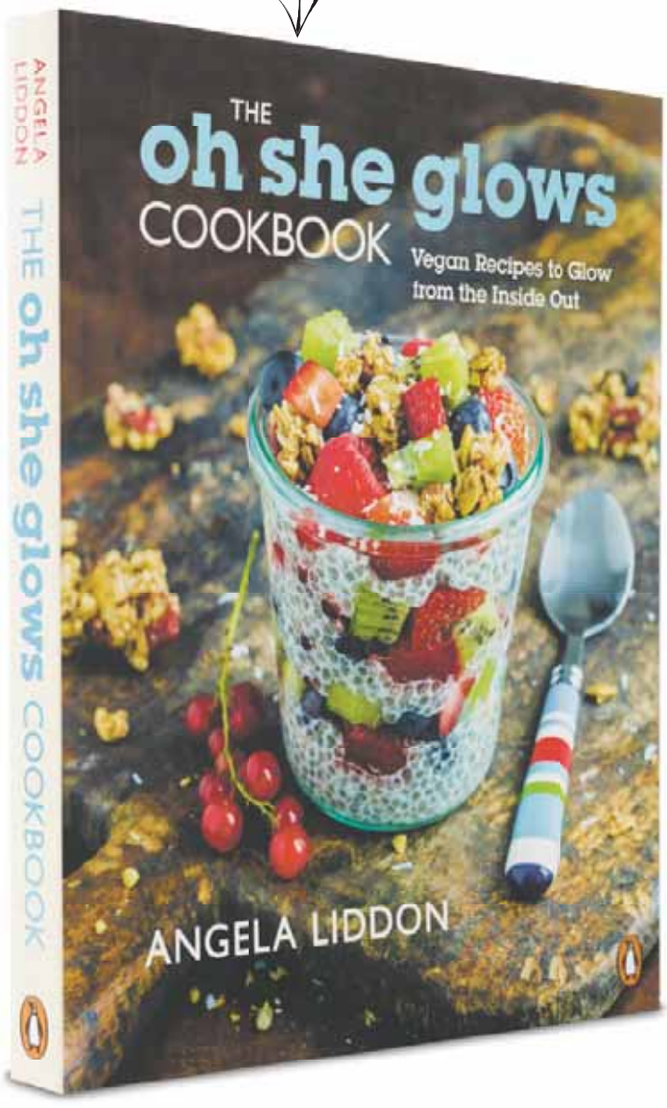
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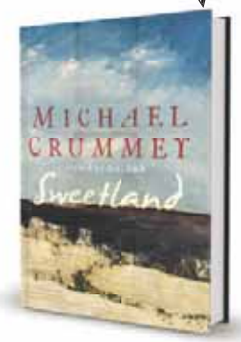

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Pet store opens under cloud of criticism

Backlash. Weekend protest against The Top Dog Store planned

JEREMY NOLAIS & HELEN PIKE
calgary@metronews.ca

Pups are now being sold at a new northeast Calgary store, one facing a barrage of criticism over its intentions, the welfare of its animals and questions about where the pets come from.

One group, Actions Speak Louder Calgary, has already pledged to reintroduce the matter with city councillors, who appear to have backed off talk in 2012 of a ban on retail pet sales after major chain Petland partnered with rescue agencies.

Robert Church, co-owner of The Top Dog Store, actually served as a spokesperson for Petland and continued to operate the last of its city stores to offer retail pets at Market Mall until earlier this year.

On Wednesday, Church said the dogs are happy and well cared for. The store has trained "techs" who are directly responsible for the love and care of the animals, and pups get time to run around during the day — up to two hours per set of paws.

He said the store works with reputable breeders to source the pets but can't disclose who they are.

"We don't want to be all secretive about it, but we also don't want people going directly to our breeders. It's a proprietary relationship, so we don't really want to compromise that," he said.

Each dog has a chart new owners can take home with a full vet check and birth certificate with all of the dog-parents' information.

"We have 18 kennels. We probably try to keep two or three (dogs) comfortably together," he said. "The more the merrier with puppies."

But Greg Habstritt, president of local group Vets To Go, said the market has "clearly communicated" that selling puppies is not a requirement to run a successful pet store and that, in general, the majority of the public does not support such a practice.

Quoted

"They had like 50 puppies in there. It was insane. It was like a showcase, a candy display."

Carmen Zvonik, Fur-Ever Homes Rescue Society

He said retail stores encourage impulse purchases and some prospective owners do not fully consider the responsibility they're taking on.

Officials with the Calgary Humane Society have echoed concerns about a surge in pet sales around Christmastime, claiming it adds to the number of animals packed into their shelter a few months later.

Habstritt and his team, meanwhile, have yet to venture to The Top Dog Store, which opened last weekend, but he expressed concern over the photos surfacing on social media from those who have stopped by.

"Anyone who's ever had a dog knows they thrive on affection, attention and proper care," he said. "From the limited number of photos we've seen, the environment in which these puppies are living seems to be overcrowded and devoid of any enrichment or comforts. Forcing small puppies to walk around on metal grates to make cleaning their cages easier ignores the larger issues that these animals deserve to be treated with respect."

Church countered Habstritt's claims, stating, "These grates are small enough that the weight is distributed evenly. I know that there's a visual to them that is off-putting for some people, but nobody's nursing their paws ... and, frankly, it kind of strengthens their paws."

Carmen Zvonik with Fur-Ever Homes Rescue Society has been skeptical since first learning about the planned store a few months ago.

She decided to stop by for a tour Tuesday but was shocked to later read a posting on the group's Facebook page later claiming the two groups discussed "collaborating on adoption events in store."

Zvonik said her words had been "spun."

"We have told them we would never until they stopped selling puppies," Zvonik said, before adding that her visit did little to adjust her views that the store was bad news.

Top Dog sells puppies over eight weeks old. The store has come under fire for being Calgary's only store selling breeder pups in the city. HELEN PIKE/METRO

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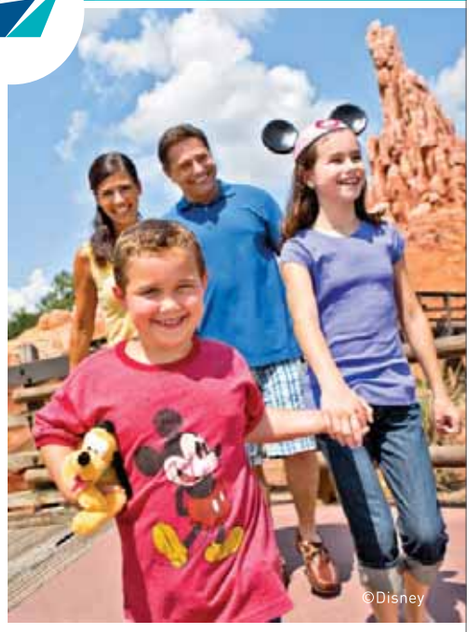

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AHS needs 'vision' to boost morale: CEO

Top health boss. 'That's one of the things that we're going to start working on right away,' Vickie Kaminski says

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Just over half of Alberta Health Services employees and fewer than four in 10 physicians say they are "engaged" in their jobs to the point that they feel pride in what they do and would recommend working for AHS to a friend.

That's according to a 2014 survey of tens of thousands of staff members within Alberta's public health-care system, the third such study AHS has undertaken in the past five years.

The results are largely similar to those from the 2012 survey but an improvement from the 2010 survey, in which only about a third of employees and a quarter of doctors described themselves as "engaged" in their work.

AHS president and CEO Vickie Kaminski said Wednesday there were some signs of improvement in the detailed 2014 results but admitted that, on the whole, the massive organization has lots of work to do when it comes to morale.

"One of the main drivers of concern within the survey that we saw was the need for organizational vision," Kaminski said. "People are saying we need some stability and we need the organization to have a vision before we're going to start to feel good about where we work."

The survey asked respondents to rate their level of agreement with a series of statements such as "I'm proud to tell others that I work for AHS" and "AHS inspires me to do my best work" and "I would recommend AHS to a friend as a great place to work."

Alberta Health Services president and CEO Vickie Kaminski admits that her organization has lots of work to do when it comes to the morale of its workers. METRO FILE

The United Nurses of Alberta (UNA) surveys its own members' job satisfaction. President Heather Smith said a key "temperature check" question is whether they would recommend nursing as a career to a family member.

That number has gone down slightly in the past two UNA surveys, Smith said, and results from the latest AHS survey suggest there's still "a whole lot of work to do" on that front.

The No. 1 issue for nurses working within AHS is workload, Smith said.

In a separate survey of EMS workers published by the Health Sciences Association of Alberta in September, 81 per cent said they felt morale had deteriorated in the past two and a half years.

Kaminski said the AHS survey, conducted Sept. 15 to Oct. 5, was open to all employees and volunteers with the organization.

Metro asked the Alberta Medical Association for comment, but no one from the physician group was available for an interview Wednesday.

Employees

51%

The proportion of AHS employees (including nurses, EMS workers, janitors and administration staff) who felt "engaged" in their work in 2014. That compares to 52 per cent in 2012 and 35 per cent in 2010.

Physicians

39%

The proportion of AHS physicians who felt "engaged" in their work in 2014. That's the same as the 39 per cent result in 2012 and up from the 26 per cent mark in 2010.

Volunteers

84%

The proportion of AHS volunteers who felt "engaged" in their volunteer work in 2014. That compares to 85 per cent in 2012 and 79 per cent in 2010.

Response rate

31%

The proportion of roughly 100,000 AHS staff members and additional volunteers who responded to the survey in 2014. That compares to response rates of 34 per cent in 2012 and 20 per cent in 2010.

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Christmas ornaments

Man allegedly steals inflatable Santa

Mounties have arrested a man who they say was stealing Christmas ornaments, including an "inflatable helicopter Santa," just north of Calgary.

Dana Mah was arrested in the Channelside area of Airdrie after RCMP received a 3 a.m. complaint about a man prowling vehicles on Nov. 27. Police located and arrested the 30-year-old nearby. He was "in possession of a stolen credit card, sunglasses, GPS, and an inflatable helicopter Santa," Airdrie RCMP said in a release.

Mah was charged with five counts of possession of stolen property, as well as possession of marijuana, among other charges. METRO

Car accident

RCMP investigate fatal crash on Highway 2A

RCMP are investigating a fatal, early-morning collision south of Calgary.

The crash happened around 6:30 a.m. Wednesday at Highway 2A and Dunbow Road.

RCMP, Foothills Fire and EMS responded to the scene.

Investigators say a black Mazda was northbound on the highway when it struck a brown Infiniti attempting to proceed east.

The driver of the Infiniti, a 38-year-old man from Okotoks, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The Mazda driver, a 25-year-old woman, was taken to hospital with undetermined injuries. METRO

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Missing Calgary woman Shannon Burgess (Madill). CONTRIBUTED

Family pleads for return

Missing. Calgary woman was last seen a week ago, family said it's not like her to disappear

HELEN PIKE
helen.pike@metronews.ca

A Calgary family is pleading for the safe return of 25-year-old Shannon Burgess, a vibrant young woman in the local acting scene who was last seen more than a week ago.

The social butterfly's disappearing act is unusual and her colleagues, family and friends are worried.

She skipped her weekend rehearsals and engagements, and was last seen in her Inglewood apartment on Wednesday. Burgess is undergoing a messy divorce, and her sister Erin Madill said she realizes Burgess may be in distress.

"If she's hanging out with someone we're not aware of we'd just appreciate it if she would let the police know," Madill said.

The family found her cellphone and car at home with no bank activity since last week, but her wallet and keys weren't in the apartment. They couldn't find a passport, but are unsure if she has a valid passport. Officially, Burgess was last seen Nov. 26.

"We don't know how she is getting around, or who is helping her eat and look after herself," Madill said.

"Right now, we're very worried ... we love her, we don't need any of the details about what has happened or where she is, just please contact the police and let us know you are safe."

Burgess is thought to be in the Calgary or Edmonton area.

Information

If anyone has information on Shannon Burgess's whereabouts, contact police at 403-266-1234.

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Holiday shopping

Market Collective brings together local artists

Looking to support a little bit of local talent this Christmas season?

This weekend, local artists, musicians, artisans and designers will come together to share and sell their work at Calgary's sixth Market Collective. The market will be open on Friday from 4 to 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The event will be held in the Chinese Cultural Centre. Admission is $5 for adults, and kids get in free. The market will also be open Dec. 12-14 and Dec. 19-21.

For more information, visit marketcollective.ca. METRO

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You can escape to Latin America and the Caribbean this Sunday at the In Concert for Central America event. The program will start at 7 p.m. and feature performances by artists from the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, raffles and a silent auction. It will be held at the National Music Centre. Tickets are $25 for adults and $15 for students. All proceeds will go towards MusAid's 2015 projects in El Salvador, Belize and Guatemala.

For more information, visit MusAid's Facebook page at facebook.com/MusAidOrganization. METRO

Tune into the classics with Christmas at the Opera

Arrata Opera Centre.
Choral music and carols to get Calgarians into the holiday spirit

BACKSTAGE PASS
Lisa Wilton
calgary@metronews.ca

At a glance

- Christmas at the Opera runs Thursday through Sunday at the Arrata Opera Centre (1315 7th St. S.W.)
- For tickets, go to calgaryopera.com or call the box office at 403-262-7286.

Calgary Opera's Christmas at the Opera will feature eight young singers participating in the company's Emerging Artists Development Program, including Kevin Myers, far left. CONTRIBUTED

Between cold weather, bad roads, busy malls and pre-holiday work stress, it's a wonder Calgarians can get into the Christmas spirit at all.

But Calgary Opera is willing to help get people into the swing of the season with a taste of Christmas classics this weekend at the Arrata Opera Centre.

Featuring eight vocalists from Calgary Opera's Emerging Artist Development Program, Christmas at the Opera will include choral music and a performance of Jules Massenet's Le Portrait de Manon.

"This is our showcase," says tenor Kevin Myers, who joined the program in October.

"The music is beautiful and the set is beautiful. And because it's in an intimate setting, you get so much closer to the singers and you can really see what's happening and see the emotion that goes into performing this music."

Le Portrait de Manon is a 45-minute comedic opera that revolves around a young couple trying to get married despite the protests of the young man's uncle.

The second part of the bill features a mix of choral music and carols, conducted by Christopher Mokrzewski and directed by Rob Herriot.

"It's more about the scene and the mood of the music," says Myers, who recently graduated with a master's degree from Montreal's McGill University.

"He (Herriot) wants to waft in smells and just infuse the whole place with Christmas."

While Christmas at the Opera is the big showcase for participants in the Emerging Artists program this year, the singers also appear in small roles in all of Calgary Opera's productions during the season.

"Getting a chance to perform on the Jubilee Auditorium stage is amazing," says Myers, who will sing the part of a smuggler in Calgary Opera's next show, The Marriage of Figaro, in January.

"It's huge compared to any of the schools. There's no replacing experience, and singing on a stage that big is the greatest experience you can get if you want a career in this field."

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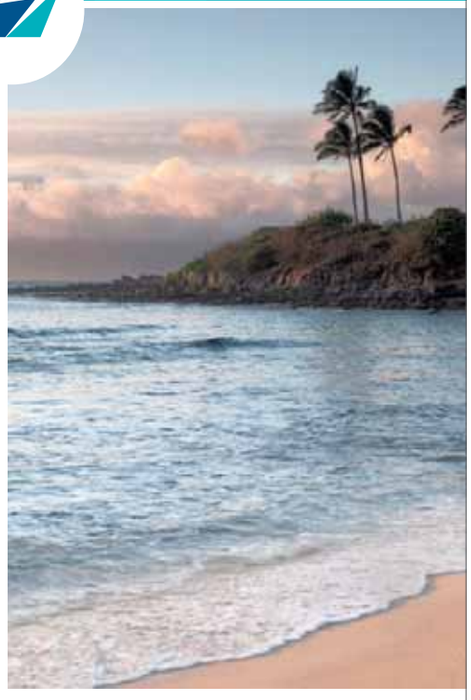

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Gambling. Gift of scratch to kids a problem: AGLC

The Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission is reminding folks there's a minor problem with lottery tickets and it's that parents and family are still gifting the gambling games to underaged kids.

The AGLC said research shows nearly one-fifth of Alberta parents admitted to giving their child a lottery ticket as a holiday or birthday gift.

Research by the provincial body shows giving kids lotto tickets can open up a dangerous world of gambling earlier in life, so sticking with socks may be the wisest gift-giving choice this season. METRO

Quoted

"Whether it's the holiday season, or any time of year, the AGLC wants Albertans to know that they shouldn't purchase lottery products for minors."

Bill Robinson, president and CEO, Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission

Emergency. Pilot, plane unscathed in rough landing

It could have ended in much worse terms, but a 67-year-old pilot and his plane, which broke through ice at a lake east of Calgary and partially tipped over, are both safe, Chestermere RCMP said in a statement Wednesday.

Chestermere Emergency Services responded to the call at approximately 2:20 p.m. on Wednesday.

The pilot, who has been flying for more than 25 years, was alone when he landed his plane on Chestermere Lake.

He was near the shore line when one of the plane's skis broke through soft ice and caused the plane's prop to hit ice.

The plane did sustain minor damage, but it was repaired on scene. METRO

Investigation

The RCMP are working with the Transportation Safety Board to investigate the incident, but charges are not anticipated.

Calgarians reminded to lock up their cars

'Crimes of opportunity.' Now that people are buying gifts during the holiday season, city police are sharing some tips: Namely, keep those presents out of sight

YASMIN JASWAL
calgary@metronews.ca

Tis the season of giving, but Calgary police and the Alberta Motor Association are reminding Calgarians that it's also the season when the Grinch might pay their gift-loaded cars an unexpected visit.

According to Wendy Mah, the crime prevention co-ordinator with AMA, there are approximately 10,000 to 15,000 car-related thefts reported every year.

"Most vehicles prowlings or break-ins of vehicles are crimes of opportunity," Mah said. "It typically starts when someone leaves something in plain view that's of value to a thief."

The most common items stolen from vehicles are laptops, shopping bags, purses and wallets, iPods and phones, and loose change.

Now that people are purchasing gifts during the holiday season, CPS shared some tips to help prevent vehicle thefts.

"The key is to remove temptation and remove opportunity," Const. Walter Kachmar said.

"Keep your valuables out of sight. If it's out of sight it's out of mind, it's less tempting for the would-be thieves to try to get in your vehicle."

Kachmar added that thieves are less likely to break into a vehicle and police tend to see a higher amount of thefts reported on unlocked vehicles.

"Lock your doors, that's the basic message. And put stuff out of sight or remove it," he said.

Tips

Other tips include parking in well-lit areas, taking garage door openers out of vehicles, and reporting suspicious activity to police at 403-266-1234 (for non-emergencies) or 911 (if crime is in progress).

Santa, along with CPS and AMA, are reminding Calgarians to take preventative steps to keep their cars from getting vandalized by a Grinch this holiday season. YASMIN JASWAL/FOR METRO

Highway chase

Cops absolved in crash of ATV driven by mentally disabled woman

An Alberta agency that investigates police says officers did not contribute to a crash involving a mentally disabled woman driving an ATV on a busy freeway.

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team says no charges will be laid.

The agency investigated after the 21-year-old woman was injured in Calgary in October.

She had driven a quad off her family's property near Gleichen and onto a highway, where she maintained speeds with other cars and swerved across lanes of traffic. A Mountie followed her from a distance with emergency lights to hold back traffic.

Police in Calgary planned to catch her at a traffic stop after she got on Deerfoot Trail but, before they could, the woman lost control of the quad and hit a fence.

She was taken to hospital with serious injuries. The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team says she continues to recover at home.

In a news release, the agency says motorists provided video clips and details that cleared officers of any wrongdoing.

"The evidence confirmed that all of the police officers involved attempted to protect the young woman and everyone else on the road."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

No purchase necessary. Contest open to Canadian residents who have reached the age of majority in her/his province/territory of residence before November 18, 2014 (**"Eligible Participants"**). Eligible Participants will be automatically entered into the contest upon making a new flight booking exclusively on the Canadian consumer edition of aircanada.com between November 18, 2014, at 12:01 a.m. EST and December 8, 2014, at 11:59 p.m. EST. The Eligible Participant who will be entered into the contest will be the person who makes the new flight booking and provides his/her contact information at time of booking. Aeroplan membership is not required for contest eligibility but will be required in order to claim all prizes. Ninety-one (91) prizes consisting of: One (1) grand prize of one million (1,000,000) Aeroplan Miles and ninety (90) secondary prizes of one hundred thousand (100,000) Aeroplan Miles for a total of ten million (10,000,000) Aeroplan miles are available to be won. Eligible Participants will be selected by random prize draw. Odds of winning depend on the total number of eligible entries received. Additional terms and conditions apply. Skill-testing question required. Visit **aircanada.com/10millionmiles** for full contest rules and regulations including how to enter without making a purchase. ®Aeroplan is a registered trademark of Aimia Canada Inc.

Whiteout conditions made for some amazing photo-ops, but cops warn taking photos behind the wheel can have some real life repercussions. METRO FILE

Rubbernecking? Don't shoot: Police

Hold that phone. Calgary police track down drivers who post photos or video taken from behind the wheel

HELEN PIKE
helen.pike@metronews.ca

You're driving, and the snowflakes floating around your almost idle car are coming at you so vigorously you can barely see the vehicle in front of you as traffic crawls along, let alone figure out how you are going to make your exit on Deerfoot Trail.

Crazy weather conditions, traffic accidents, and police cars on the side of the road are distracting enough, but some drivers take these moments to fulfil an itch: to share their behind-the-wheel view with the world on social media.

Quoted

"If you're videotaping an accident scene it's pretty hard to pay attention to where you're going."

Calgary police Insp. Ken Thrower

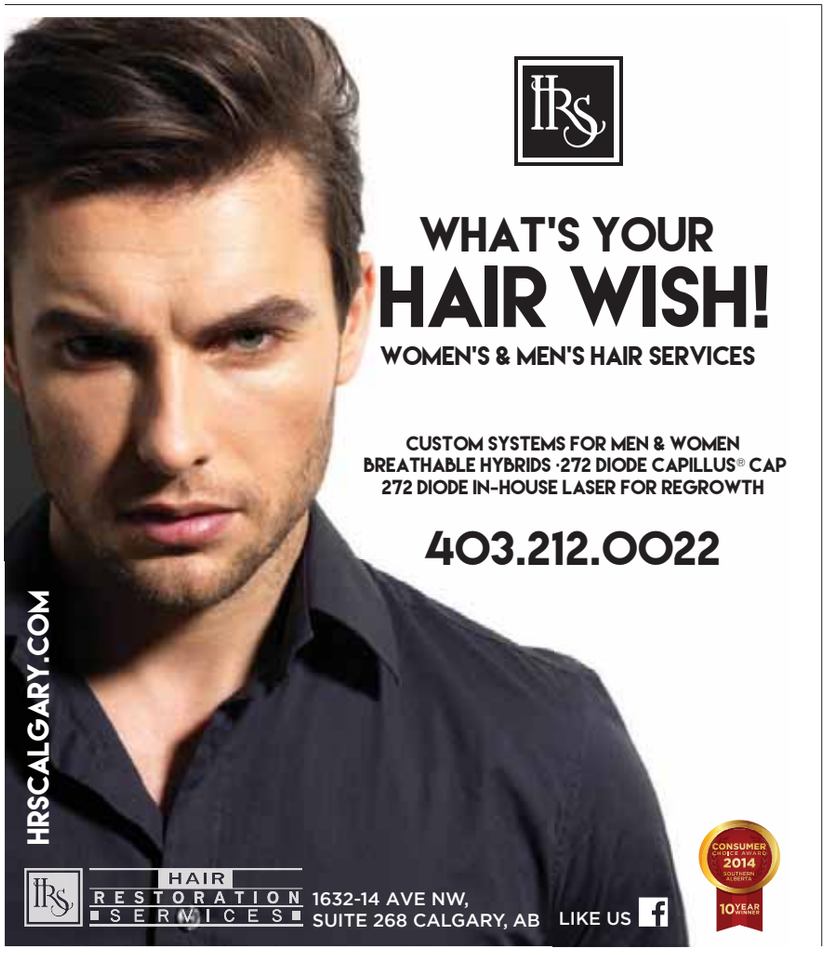
"People will go by and, believe it or not, pull out their cellphones and videotape the police on the side of the road," said Insp. Ken Thrower, commander of the Calgary police traffic section. "If you're videotaping an accident scene it's pretty hard to pay attention to where you're going."

Thrower said even pulling over on the highway is a no-no, and sometimes a photo-op just isn't the best idea.

Cases where footage and images are posted to social media are monitored by the service's public affairs department, says Insp. Thrower. When convincing enough evidence of dangerous practices behind the wheel comes to the surface, it's given to traffic enforcement officers to handle. He adds these cases are particularly difficult to solve, especially when it comes to deciphering if the driver had the camera or the passenger.

"I've seen people videotaping a storm, and we've had people videotape how fast they're going and we've tracked them down," Thrower said. "They're giving us evidence on their wrongdoings, that's the best part."

Thrower said in one instance when a man was driving while video recording, the police were able to see exactly how fast he was going, and eventually when he pulled up in front of a residence they pulled a home address.



Red Deer

Teen pleads guilty to dangerous driving in death of taxi passenger

A young man charged in a fatal collision involving a taxi has pleaded guilty.

A preliminary hearing for Tyler James Wilson was supposed to be held this week in a Red Deer court.

But before the hearing took place, the 19-year-old has instead pleaded guilty to a charge of dangerous driving causing death.

Jonathon Wood, who was 33, died in the crash. The taxi he was in was rear-ended at a Red Deer intersection in November 2013.

In his remarks, Wilson's lawyer told the court it was always his client's intention to take responsibility.

Wilson is expected to return to court sometime in February for sentencing.

The Crown has indicated it plans to withdraw the remaining charge of impaired driving causing death.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

My Pets. Emaciated dog on shop window for sale

Justine Elliot and her boyfriend were doing some Christmas shopping Monday night at West Edmonton Mall when they decided to swing by a pet store to check out some puppies.

What they saw forced them to double-take.

Two young English bulldog puppies were being displayed in the pet store window — one looking emaciated, with his skin pulled tight over his small ribcage, the picture showed.

Elliot and her boyfriend were both in shock at the puppies' appearance. They decided to snap a photo of the animal and share it on a local animal rescue page in hopes of gathering some advice on how to proceed.

Fast-forward to Wednesday. The post has been shared more than 7,000 times on Facebook and animal protection officers from the Edmonton Human Society have launched an investigation into the matter.

Calls made by Metro to My Pets pet store in West Edmonton Mall for a comment on the animals' wellness were not returned Wednesday.

LEAH HOLOIDAY/METRO

This photo taken by an Edmonton woman of a English bulldog puppy has been shared more than 7,000 times online. CONTRIBUTED

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Lyme disease. AMMI Canada to object to bill

An organization representing Canada's infectious-diseases specialists plans to raise objections to a private member's bill on Lyme disease at a Senate committee hearing.

Their concern: The bill's preamble appears to support the notion that significant numbers of people in Canada are suffering from a condition they believe to be chronic Lyme disease and that these individuals are being failed by a medical system that refuses to accept that diagnosis, leaving sick people to suffer.

The organization, the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (AMMI) Canada, is hoping to persuade the committee to strip three paragraphs from the preamble to the bill, saying it can support the rest of the document.

But Green Party Leader Elizabeth May, who proposed the bill, says that isn't possible at this stage.

May, an MP for the British Columbia riding of Saanich-Gulf Islands, says the preamble cannot be altered without sending the bill back to the House of Commons. And that, she says, would effectively kill the bill; there would not be enough time for it to make its way back through Parliament before next fall's election.

The fear held by infectious-disease specialists is that in criticizing the existing guidelines developed over several years to diagnose Lyme disease, the bill tacitly supports an alternative method that an independent review — commissioned by Britain's Health Protection Agency — found to not provide a sound, empirical approach to Lyme disease diagnosis and care.

May expressly asked Steven Sternthal, director general of the centre for foodborne, environmental and zoonotic diseases, whether there were things about the bill he would like to see improved.

"No," said Sternthal. "As I indicated, we view this building on our (Lyme disease) action plan, moving forward, and taking it to the next level of work."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Students test IBM's Watson

Jeopardy champion Ken Jennings, left, looks on as the IBM computer called Watson beats him during a practice round. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Need legal advice?

U of T students designed e-paralegal program using IBM's Jeopardy-winning A.I.

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro in Toronto

Need a shoulder to cry on during your divorce? Or, how about some advice for you next legal battle? Never fear, Watson is here.

Students at the University of Toronto are putting the famous Jeopardy-playing super-computer to work.

Last spring, IBM partnered with 10 schools, challenging them to put an entrepreneurial spin on Watson's artificial intelligence. U of T was the only Canadian institution invited, and students were tasked with pitching a business model combining Watson with legal data.

"There's a ton of money to be made in law. It's all about helping lawyers reduce their research time," said computer science professor Paul Gries.

Ideas included Divorcesay, an online app that guides you through the legal process of getting a divorce, as well as Loom, which mines court data to determine the likelihood your case will succeed. The program predicted, for example, that a current legal bid to force the Canadian Hockey League to pay players a minimum wage has a 68 per cent chance of success.

The winning team, announced Wednesday, pitched a product called Ross, an "electronic paralegal" aimed at assisting lawyers with case research. In January, the team will fly to New York to compete against nine other schools for a chance to win $100,000 in seed capital.

"This is just the first step," said Jimoh Ovbiagale, a U of T student and member of the team headed stateside. "Our ultimate goal is to build a great Canadian company."

At its core, Watson is a computer program that can make sense of natural language. It can ingest large amounts of text, process it and use it to answer questions, as it did during its run on Jeopardy.

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NE121G314

NDP. Mulcair endorses stricter rules for firearms

A New Democrat government would ensure police are able to track every firearm in Canada, but would also seek to avoid the pitfalls that made the now-defunct long-gun registry so controversial, Tom Mulcair said Wednesday.

The NDP leader disputed the Conservative government's contention that gun registration is an unfair, onerous requirement for law-abiding gun owners.

"I have nothing against seeing honest farmers and duck hunters be able to have their weapons," Mulcair said outside an NDP caucus meeting. "But, you know, that honest hunter who goes out with his pickup truck, it's a registered pickup truck ... the trailer's registered and the 4X4 is registered. Heck, his dog is registered."

New Democrats "have confidence in the ability of farmers and duck hunters to fill out a form," he added. While farmers and hunters are entitled to own firearms, Mulcair suggested there must be strict limits.

"What kind of duck do you hunt with an assault weapon? A pterodactyl?"

There's no reason a system of tracking firearms has to go "overboard," as the Liberals did when they created the long-gun registry and imposed criminal penalties for failure to register, Mulcair said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jean Béliveau was a 'role model to us all'

Serge Laflamme lights a candle at a statue of Jean Béliveau on Wednesday in Longueuil, Que. The Montreal Canadiens hockey legend passed away Tuesday at the age of 83. On his death, he was remembered as a "legend" and a "role model to us all." Tributes poured in from the hockey world and from political leaders after the Canadiens announced that perhaps their best player ever, and certainly their greatest captain, had died. "He was a hero to generations of his fellow French Canadians and hockey fans everywhere. Our sport has lost a great ambassador," said Canadiens owner and president Geoff Molson.

PHOTO: RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS
TEXT: THE CANADIAN PRESS

For more coverage, see page 39

Analysis. Veterans Affairs underspent on war graves

Veterans Affairs spent millions less than it budgeted for maintaining war graves last year in cemeteries like those in Italy visited recently by Julian Fantino, a report reveals.

The departmental performance review of the memorial and cemetery maintenance program shows just 2,500 of 7,000 grave markers were properly maintained last year.

The government earmarked more than $18.5 million in fiscal 2013-14 to help preserve the memory of Canadians who died serving their country, the programs analysis report shows.

Instead, the department spent $2.6 million less, or just over $15.9 million, with just eight people doing the preservation work — far short of the 41 full-time employees originally projected for the program.

The analysis also says foreign service-providers completed maintenance work on only 80 per cent of Canada's overseas memorials, short of their 85 per cent target.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Class action

A federal government lawyer is asking B.C.'s highest court to throw out a class-action lawsuit by Canadian Forces members injured in Afghanistan who say they've been stripped of benefits.

Prostitution law comes on anniversary of massacre

Dec. 6. Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre is also a nationwide day of action on violence against women

It's "sick and twisted" that Canada's controversial new prostitution bill comes into force on a day dedicated to eradicating violence against women, says one of the women behind a successful court challenge of the old laws.

The new legislation, known as the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act, comes into force on Saturday, Dec. 6, which is also the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

The day — the anniversary of the shooting deaths of 14 women at Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal at the hands of gunman Marc Lepine — has evolved into an occasion to commemorate all female victims of violence.

Those who work in the sex industry have expressed their disdain for the new prostitution laws, which they fear will result in more victims, not fewer.

"I think that it's a really sick and twisted day for it to happen," said Valerie Scott, one of three women behind the landmark Supreme Court case that declared Canada's legislation on prostitution unconstitutional.

"That day should not solely be for women who were murdered by Marc Lepine, it should also be for women who were murdered by Robert Pickton," said Scott.

Pickton, a B.C. pig farmer, was convicted almost exactly seven years ago for the gruesome murders of six prostitutes, and had been charged in the deaths of 20 others.

The case was among those referenced by the Supreme Court last year when it struck down Canada's prostitution laws, arguing that they deprived sex workers of the ability to work safely.

The decision gave the government one year to establish new laws. The new bill was introduced June 4, reviewed by both the House of Commons and Senate and granted royal assent on Nov. 6.

By the bill's own terms, it was slated to come into effect 30 days after that — which is how Dec. 6 came to be the date.

"We do not control the passage of bills in the Senate, nor when a bill receives royal assent," said Clarissa Lamb, a spokeswoman for Justice Minister Peter MacKay.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sensitivity issue?

"I'm sure if they had thought about it, they might have picked another date, if they were a bit sensitive."

NDP justice critic Francoise Boivin

Quebecor Inc.

University may study Peladeau's media ownership

The centre for media studies at Universite Laval is expected to decide next week if it will study whether Pierre Karl Peladeau should continue owning the controlling shares in Quebecor Inc.

The Liberal government has tabled a motion asking the university to look into the effects on democracy of a politician who controls a media empire.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada Revenue Agency

Heartbleed hacker facing more charges

The RCMP have laid 16 more charges against a London, Ont., man originally charged last April in connection with the Heartbleed computer bug and the loss of data from the Canada Revenue Agency website.

Stephen Arthuro Solis-Reyes had been charged only with unauthorized use of a computer and mischief in relation to data, in the revenue agency case.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Top Mountie testifying in harassment case

A longtime Mountie suing the RCMP for harassment was seen as "almost unequivocally embittered towards the force" while his superiors were regarded as "blameless" despite the man's repeated allegations against them, RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson testified in a Newmarket, Ont., court on Wednesday.

The head of the force was subpoenaed to testify at the civil trial of Sgt. Peter Merrifield, who alleges in his lawsuit that he was harassed by some of his superiors within the RCMP and that they employed aggressive and intimidating means to try to silence him.

He was questioned at length on what he was told about Merrifield, with Merrifield's lawyer suggesting the commissioner got incomplete information on the officer, which led to further damage to his reputation as recently as last year.

Court also heard that Merrifield had written to Paulson raising the issue of a superior's possible involvement with prostitutes.

When Merrifield's lawyer asked if an investigation was conducted into the matter, Paulson said "no."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mountie shot

An officer who was shot during a traffic stop in Kamloops, B.C., is in critical but stable condition and has provided Mounties with information, says Supt. Brad Mueller. Mueller said the officer underwent emergency surgery.

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Dalhousie's 'Puppy Room' quells stressed-out students

Furry therapy. Students delight in a chance to cuddle away some pre-exam anxiety

HALEY RYAN
Metro in Halifax

More than a dozen Dalhousie University students huddled in smiling groups around red-vested therapy dogs on Wednesday, running their hands through soft fur or watching the pups perform tricks with their owners.

The school's annual Puppy Room opened for two days at the Studley campus this week, and expanded to the Sexton Campus on Barrington Street for the first time on Wednesday to bring some warm fuzzies to stressed-out students.

"It's just filled us full of love. Forget about math, forget about exams, it's a time to play with dogs," Shalki Shukla, an international student from India, said with a smile.

Shukla said she had been missing her own dog and looking forward to the event — which ran into a bit of her class time but Shukla said she couldn't pass up the opportunity because "dogs are the best."

"Being an international student always felt very lonely, but coming here it's like 'Oh my God, I got my family back,'" said internetworking student Monica Sheeba, also from India.

Two golden retrievers and a Bernese mountain dog, St. Bernard and Labradoodle soaked up the attention for the afternoon, and master's student Joel Scott said although he's not a "dog person per se" it's nice to be around calm and relaxing animals.

"Cats are pretty indifferent to anything," he said with a smile.

Nick Osbourne agreed there is something special about being around dogs more than any other animal.

"There's totally a bond," Osbourne said.

Brier Stewart and therapy dog Luka do tricks for Dalhousie University students as part of the Puppy Room at the Sexton Campus on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO IN HALIFAX

Quebec residents trying to rescue loon trapped by lake ice

A loon trapped on Pike Lake, Que., Wednesday. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO IN OTTAWA

Residents in West Quebec are trying to save a loon trapped on a partially frozen lake.

The bird can be seen gliding back and forth on a small unfrozen portion of Pike Lake in Edelweiss, about 30 km north of Ottawa. Locals believe the bird is stranded, since loons typically fly south for the winter by now.

Tanya Dare, who lives on the lake, said people are working to rescue the animal.

"We have some leads on boats and people who know about loons," she wrote in an email. "It's wonderful how the community has rallied around this poor bird."

Mae Goguen of the Wild Bird Care Centre said the non-profit organization will care for the loon, but lacks the equipment or staff to rescue the animal. She speculates the loon is too thin or injured to fly away, though that won't make rescue efforts any easier

"Every time you approach him, he's just going to swim under and disappear," she said.

University of Ottawa biology professor Adam Oliver Brown said loons need more than a small pool of water to fly.

"Being diving birds, their body configuration is such that their feet are very far back towards the back of their body ... so they need to run along long stretches of water before they can take flight," he said.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO IN OTTAWA

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Hundreds mourn woman who aided girls

Germany. Woman came to rescue of girls being harassed by men, was left comatose after fight, pulled from life support

Hundreds of mourners paid their last respects Wednesday to a young woman hailed as a hero, who suffered fatal injuries after intervening to help two teenage girls being harassed by a group of men.

Tugce Albayrak had been in a coma since mid-November following an early-morning altercation in Offenbach, near Frankfurt. She died Friday, her 23rd birthday, after her family gave permission to switch off her life support.

Albayrak's funeral was held outside a mosque in Waechtersbach in central Germany. Her coffin, covered by a green cloth with Arabic script in gold, was placed on a stone table, flanked by German and Turkish flags. Turkey's ambassador to Germany and the Hesse state governor also attended the ceremony, conducted in both Turkish and German.

The bravery of the Turkish-German woman triggered an outpouring of public sympathy in Germany.

Albayrak and two friends came to the aid of two teenage girls who were being harassed by several young men inside a bathroom in a McDonald's at about 4 a.m. on Nov. 15. Later outside, one of the men allegedly hit Albayrak in the head, and she fell to the ground.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The coffin with Tugce Albayrak rests outside a mosque during a funeral ceremony in Waechtersbach, Germany, on Wednesday. MICHAEL PROBST/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Climate change

2014 tied for hottest year: UN

Temperature data shows 2014 is currently tied for the hottest year on record, the UN weather agency said Wednesday.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said the global average temperature in January-October was 0.57 C above average, the same as in 2010.

The ocean temperature set a new record in the nine-month period, while land temperatures were the fourth or fifth highest since record-keeping began in the 19th century, the WMO said in a UN report.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sexual abuse

The truth must prevail: Pope

Pope Francis assured Dominican authorities on Wednesday that the truth must prevail in the case of his former ambassador to the Caribbean country who is accused of sexually abusing young boys. Francis met with the Dominican Republic's top prosecutor, Francisco Dominguez Brito, after his Wednesday general audience. Jozef Wesolowski has been defrocked and placed under modified house arrest inside Vatican City pending a decision by the Vatican criminal court on whether to indict him.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Airstrikes. Iran believed to have struck at ISIL: U.S.

Iranian jets have carried out airstrikes in Iraq against militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in recent days, U.S. officials and independent analysts say, underscoring the strange alliances generated by the war against the extremist group that has beheaded Americans and blown up rivals' holy sites.

Washington and Tehran are locked in tough negotiations over Iran's nuclear program. But at the same time, the two adversaries have been fighting parallel campaigns on the same side in Iraq to defend the Shiite-dominated government — and the region's Kurds — from ISIL militants who have seized large sections of Iraq and Syria.

It has long been known that Iranian troops and advisers have been fighting alongside Iraqi forces against ISIL, but until this week there had been no confirmation of Iranian air activity. The timing and nature of the strikes are not clear, but U.S. officials say some involved American-made F-4 Phantoms, twin-engine fighter bombers that were sold to Iran's U.S.-backed shah in the 1970s and were last produced by McDonnell Aircraft Corp. in 1981.

Qatari-based broadcaster Al-Jazeera filmed a jet flying over Iraq on Nov. 30 that was identified by Jane's Defence Weekly as an Iranian Phantom.

Speaking in Brussels on Wednesday, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Iranian attacks on ISIL militants would represent a positive development.

"I think it's self-evident that if Iran is taking on ISIL in some particular place, and it's confined to taking on ISIL, and it has an impact, its net effect is positive," Kerry told reporters. "But that's not something we're co-ordinating."

In Iran, a spokeswoman for the foreign ministry, Marzieh Afkham, also denied that Iran has co-operated with the U.S.-led coalition but neither confirmed nor denied the Iranian airstrikes against ISIL in Iraq.

Iraq's Prime Minister, Haider al-Abadi, told reporters Wednesday, "I'm not aware there were Iranian airstrikes."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FAMILY FUN GUIDE

BY STEVEN CURSON

Where to go, what to do and how to get there. Here are this week's activity listings

CITY OF CALGARY

INDOOR PUBLIC SKATING

Village Square Leisure Centre (2623 56 St. N.E.) is one of the nicest city-owned arenas with two ice surfaces, a large indoor fireplace, special lighting, and an adjacent cafeteria. There is an admission fee. Go to calgary.ca for more.

COP

HIT THE SLOPES

Canada Olympic Park, on the western edge of town, is open! Bring your gear or rent. Lessons, beginner terrain, and night skiing, too! Full-day and four-hour lift tickets available. Call 403-247-5452 or visit winsport.ca/ticketspasses/winterhill-passes.cfm for more.

SOULCENTRIC

IN A NUTSHELL

Set to Tchaikovsky's famous score, a special performance of The Nutcracker takes tots through the classic ballet in just 30 minutes. Performances Dec. 4, Dec. 5 and Dec. 12 at the Cardel Theatre. Tickets $10-$12. Go to soulocentric.org for more.

CHRISTIAN MANZONI

SHOOT FOR GOLD

Biathalon, the sport combining nordic skiing and marksmanship, isn't an Olympics-only deal. Watch a race free on Dec. 6-7 at Canmore Nordic Centre. Bring your skinny skis, skates, and sled for a full day of fun. Rentals available. Pass needed to ski. For more, visit albertaparks.ca.

STEVEN CURSON

K-COUNTRY

When entered via Bragg Creek, Kananaskis Country makes an easy day trip for a winter walk and picnic. Free. Amp things up and try snowshoeing. Rent from U of C's Outdoor Centre. Reserve your gear. Call 403-220-5038 or visit albertaparks.ca for more.

AIRDRIE360

SANTA LIGHTS UP AIRDRIE

Calgary doesn't have a Santa Claus parade but our neighbour, Airdrie, does. On Main Street, Saturday at 5 p.m. Bundle up and BYO chairs. Buy snacks and hot chocolate in town. Free. Go to airdrieparades.com/2014-santa-parade for more.

"Someday I'd like to play on Team Canada." – *Madison, age 8*

Every kid has a someday. It may be something fantastical like flying to the moon, something practical like following their dad into construction or something we all can relate to like wanting to be surrounded by love. No matter what it is, we want to give them the support they need to get there. That's why we're pledging $100 million over five years to help over a million children do just that. Let's make every kid's someday™ happen.

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Brown case. Stepfather apologizes for comments

The stepfather of Michael Brown has apologized for angry comments he made after the grand jury decided not to indict the police officer who killed his unarmed 18-year-old stepson, but said his remarks had nothing to do with the arson and looting that ravaged Ferguson and the surrounding area.

Police said Tuesday they are investigating Louis Head's comments as part of a broader inquiry into the arson, vandalism and looting that followed the announcement of the grand jury decision on Nov. 24. Brown's death inflamed racial tensions in the Missouri city of Ferguson and fuelled a debate over relations between law enforcement and black communities across the country.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egypt. Gov't to criminalize insulting the uprisings

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi has said his office is drafting a law to criminalize insulting the uprisings that toppled President Hosni Mubarak in 2011 and his Islamist successor Mohammed Morsi last year.

The move intends to ease concerns on both sides of a widening rift over whether the two popular movements expressed the genuine will of Egyptians.

The dispute was further stoked by a judge's dismissal last weekend of a murder case against Mubarak over the killing of protesters.

Just what would constitute an insult however was unclear, as was the time frame for the legislation's implementation. Such a law, however, would infringe on the freedom of expression guaranteed by the nation's new constitution.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two more women accuse Bill Cosby of sex abuse

Attorney Gloria Allred, left, speaks at a press conference with Chelan, right, an alleged victim of Bill Cosby, on Wednesday in Los Angeles, Calif. Cosby has been accused of sexual assault by approximately 20 women.

FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES

Press conference. The pair have never spoken about their experiences: Attorney

Three women who claim they were victimized by Bill Cosby appeared at a Wednesday afternoon news conference called by attorney Gloria Allred.

Allred wrote in a news release that she will propose a way the women can "obtain justice" despite statutes of limitations that would prevent criminal or civil cases from being filed.

Two of the women have never spoken about their experiences with Cosby, Allred wrote. The third woman was prepared to testify against Cosby to support another woman's 2005 lawsuit claiming sexual assault by Cosby in Pennsylvania. Cosby settled that lawsuit before it went to trial.

The press conference comes a day after a sexual battery lawsuit was filed by Judy Huth, a Southern California woman who claims the comedian molested her in a bedroom of the Playboy Mansion around 1974 when she was 15 years old.

Huth's lawsuit states she became aware of the psychological damage of the incident recently. Under California law, adult victims who suffered childhood sexual abuse can file lawsuits within three years of when they discover the abuse caused significant psychological trauma.

In recent weeks, more than a dozen women have accused Cosby of drugging and sexually abusing them. Cosby's lawyer, Marty Singer, did not respond to requests for comment on Wednesday, though Cosby's lawyers previously have issued statements characterizing some of the claims as previously discredited and others as untrue. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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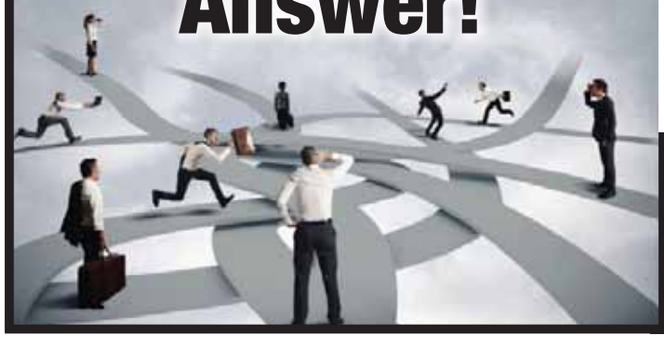

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Consumer debt rising

Equifax. Heading into the holiday shopping season, Canadians already owe an average of $20,891, excluding mortgages

Canadians continue to pile on debt and now collectively owe more than $1.5 trillion, according to the latest figures from Equifax Canada.

The consumer credit-rating agency says the level at the end of the third quarter was up 7.4 per cent from $1.409 trillion a year ago.

Nearly two-thirds of the total owed, or $985.1 billion, is mortgage debt.

Excluding mortgages, the average debt held by Canadians stands at $20,891.

The auto-loan and instalment-loan sectors showed the most significant increases, at 6.8 and 5.8 per cent year-over-year respectively.

"Following a frenzied start to the festive shopping season, with more to come in the countdown to Christmas, we can expect the consumer debt to rise even further," said Regina Malina, senior director of decision insights at Equifax Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Drivers

Equifax said the increase in consumer demand for new credit has been driven mainly by credit-card and auto-credit inquiries.

- In addition, demand for consumer credit has now increased for six consecutive quarters in the West, while activity in the eastern provinces continues to slow.

Top court hears pregnancy discrimination case

Peggy Young (in foreground), a Virginia woman who lost her UPS job because she became pregnant, leaves the U.S. Supreme Court after the court heard arguments in her case Dec. 3 in Washington, D.C. The Supreme Court is weighing how much employers must do to accommodate pregnant workers under a federal law aimed at combating discrimination against them. UPS refused to give Young temporary light-duty work so she could avoid lifting heavy packages after she became pregnant in 2006. WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES

Energy East project

Pipeline concerns narrowed down

Ontario's concerns about the environmental impact of the proposed Energy East pipeline narrowed considerably Wednesday following a meeting between premiers Kathleen Wynne and Jim Prentice of Alberta.

After the meeting, Wynne said her concerns were limited to greenhouse-gas emissions from the pipeline project itself, not from so-called upstream emissions. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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VOICES

HOUSING AS A HUMAN RIGHT

Do people have a constitutional right to adequate housing? The Court of Appeal for Ontario recently ruled that this is a matter for governments to decide, not courts, but advocates plan to take their fight to the Supreme Court of Canada. Metro staff from across the country talked to housing-rights champions for their take:

GETTY IMAGES FILE

The distinction the judge in this case made between the role of the courts and the role of the legislature is an important one, says Stacy Douglas, assistant professor of Law and Legal Studies at Carleton University.

"It rests on an idea, central to our democracy, that parliament makes law, and courts merely ensure that this law is being upheld," she said. "However, this is an increasingly grey area as our law continues to change and transform to accommodate demands, for example, for socio-economic rights.

"The appellants in this case are claiming that the overall approach of the government has led to conditions that violate their rights to adequate housing. (But) because there is no constitutional right to housing and because there is no otherwise stated standard for them to use to evaluate governmental policy, the courts claim it must be a matter for the legislature."

As for whether an absence of government action can be considered a violation of constitutional rights, Douglas said "the law is constantly changing, and judges should be very careful about deciding too swiftly what is justiciable and what isn't. Something that is unacceptable today may very well be acceptable tomorrow."

SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO IN OTTAWA

Nova Scotia

Jim Graham,
program co-ordinator,
Affordable Housing
Association of Nova Scotia

Thoughts on the ruling?
I'm not surprised at all.... It's more of a policy issue than a charter issue.

Why should Canada care?
We live in a subarctic climate. If you're not adequately housed in the wintertime, you die. (Also) research demonstrates that ... secure housing is a foundation that you absolutely need if you're going to pursue better health, better education, better quality of life, period.

What unique challenges does your community face?
There's a lack of adequate affordable housing, and the shelter component is reasonably low.

What policy changes would you like to see?
To have the provincial government ... find policies that increase the supply of truly affordable housing, whether that's acquisition, refurbish, whether it's build some more, whether it's deeper rent subsidies.

British Columbia

DJ Larkin,
lawyer,
Pivot Legal Society

Thoughts on the ruling?
Obviously we're disappointed.... When it comes to fundamental rights, like the right to life and security of the person ... that's not a policy decision. It's extremely clear in international law and in Canada's legal obligations that there is some obligation to make sure that people are housed and safe.

Why should Canada care?
We're one of the only rich countries that doesn't have a national housing plan.... This is the most fundamental thing that you must ensure for a healthy society.

What unique challenges does your community face?
Vancouver (has) an increased number of unsheltered, homeless people on our streets. We're also struggling with very, very fast gentrification in our Downtown Eastside ... and people who relied on this neighbourhood as their last stop before homelessness are now being pushed out.

Manitoba

Clark Brownlee,
co-ordinator,
Right to Housing Coalition

Thoughts on the ruling?
It should've been passed ... and they should've been allowed to at least table their documents in support of Canadians who are homeless. I think it was a gutsy thing to take the rights to housing to court.

Why should Canada care?
From a purely economic standpoint, it costs more by far to have a homeless person live on the streets than in housing. It's a humanitarian issue outside of the rights issue.

What policy changes would you like to see?
I would like to see the federal government get back into funding social housing — the way they did for years. They stopped it in the early '90s in order to balance their budget. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation makes millions of dollars of profit every year that just goes into the federal coffers, which needs to go back into making social and affordable housing available to all Canadians. We don't need to have homelessness in this country.

Alberta

Tim Richter,
president & CEO,
Canadian Alliance to
End Homelessness

Thoughts on the ruling?
This is a bump in the long road to achieving housing rights in Canada.

Why should Canada care?
Housing is one of the basic preconditions upon which all other rights are built. People trapped in homelessness are not free — they are wards of largely dysfunctional systems that breed dependence on others for food, shelter, safety. There can be no right to life if your health is compromised by lack of adequate housing.

Interviews compiled by Kristen Lipscombe/Metro in Halifax, Darren Krause/Metro in Calgary and Adriana Mingo/for Metro in Winnipeg.

From refrigerated freebies to parking fundraisers: Initiatives from around the world to help the homeless

Saudi Arabia

Take at your leisure

A man in Saudi Arabia installed a fridge outside his home to allow homeless people to seek food without begging. Good Samaritans are welcome to help stock the fridge.

The Vatican

Shower in the Square

The Vatican is installing public restrooms with showers in St. Peter's Square to cater to homeless men and women. The idea came after the Pope's chief almsgiver met a homeless man who said he could always find food but never a place to wash himself.

France

Gym doubles as dorm

French advocacy group Not Without A Roof provides overnight shelter for homeless families by allowing them to sleep in the gym of their children's school. Eight schools offer shelter to more than 100 students.

Worldwide

Safe place to put your stuff

Several cities around the world, including New York City and Lisbon, provide lockers to their homeless citizens. There are strict rules pertaining to their use, including not using them for shelter.

U.S.A.

Park and donate

Pasadena, Calif., set up 14 orange parking meters around the city that accept cash and credit-card payments that go directly to local organizations that help feed and shelter the homeless.

metro
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Turning the page on family

Interview. Alan Cumming details his difficult childhood in a memoir, and says he's now at ease with missing out on being a dad

When Scottish actor Alan Cumming was 28, he endured an episode he's come to believe was a nervous breakdown — or, as he memorably refers to it in his new memoir, a Nervy B.

He was eight years into a marriage to actress Hilary Lyon and the couple was trying to have a child. As parenthood loomed and Cumming became increasingly swallowed by anxiety, he started to realize he hadn't quite escaped the dark shadow of his own father.

As documented in Not My Father's Son, the Tony Award-winning actor was raised by a mercurial terror who subjected Cumming and his brother, Tom, to a routine of jarring physical violence and withering verbal criticism.

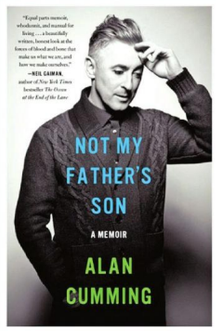
Then 28 years old and considering the reality of fatherhood for the first time, Cumming worried about a cycle of violence. Now 49 and still childless, Cumming says he remains vigilant for echoes of his deceased dad. "I'm not a father, and I've chosen not to be now," he said during an interview in Toronto this week. "Sometimes if I get annoyed with a child, or even my dogs, I sort of think: 'Oh gosh.' I sometimes check myself.

"That will never go away — that worry," he added. "Because I am my father's (son). I have madness on both sides of my family. Let's face it. It's a miracle I'm functioning."

Although Cumming just worked the book's title into conversation casually, it's actually quite a loaded statement for the multi-hyphenate star — one that launched a "crazy summer" that served as the setting for Cumming's memoir.

Alan Cumming's acting resumé is robust. He's pursued an unusually eclectic career onscreen with notable roles in the likes of X-Men 2, GoldenEye, Eyes Wide Shut, the Spy Kids franchise, Romy and Michele's High School Reunion, Circle of Friends, and, recently, The Good Wife, as resourceful and excitable campaign manager Eli Gold. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Daddy dearest?



In one of many chilling memories from his memoir, Cumming writes about his father flying into a rage over his supposedly shaggy hair. His dad dragged him by the scruff of his neck for dozens of yards, threw him across a workbench and shaved his head roughly with a pair of rusty clippers he usually used to shear sheep.

It was 2010, and Cumming was participating in the British genealogy documentary Who Do You Think You Are? As he was preparing to climb his family tree, he fell into contact with his father for the first time in more than a decade.

His dad was dying of cancer and had troubling news for his family: Alan Cumming, he was certain, was not actually his son but instead the product of an extramarital affair pursued by Cumming's beloved mother.

Just as he was reeling from this revelation, Cumming was reaching profound conclusions in his documentary-aided investigation into the mysterious death of his maternal grandfather, a British soldier named Tommy Darling who had disappeared into a life in Malaysia marked in equal measure by honour and havoc. Cumming documents the dual familial probes in sometimes alternating chapters in his tightly focused memoir. And he does eventually find out whether his own father was telling the truth — but it would spoil the book to reveal that answer here.

For a long time the actor was uncharacteristically terse on the topic of his father. In the U.K., where Cumming's life has long been a subject of interest to the tabloid press, it had been established that Cumming and his father were estranged but the reasons why were somewhat blurry.

Even those closest to Cumming were stunned to read his account of a childhood spent weathering a campaign of psychological cruelty and intimidation. "My friends are shocked," said Cumming, nattily clad in a royal blue dress shirt and black vest.

Considerations of parenthood lingered for Cumming, by the way, beyond that anxious time in his 20s.

Now, however — months away from his 50th birthday and years into his marriage to longtime partner Grant Shaffer — Cumming has confidently closed the book on fatherhood.

"I did want to do that, and I really don't now," he said. "I think I got older and I got content. And I don't want to change that. I'm content. So I don't think a child is something that I need to fulfil me anymore."

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Ed Sheeran ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Cuddly, ginger and British, Ed Sheeran is the top dog at Spotify. Sorry, Taylor

Who's the undisputed king of online music? Ed Sheeran is.

The cuddly British ginger was the most-streamed artist in 2014, according to Spotify, with a staggering 860 million individual streams of his songs.

And his album, X, was the most-streamed album globally, with 430 million listens.

I guess that month I spent streaming the Flash Gordon soundtrack on repeat didn't make as much of an impact as I'd hoped. And, of course, there's no mention of Spotify-ditching Taylor Swift in the report, so maybe Sheeran's win should come with an asterisk.

Now, for some truly terrifying numbers: Spotify's more than 50 million registered users streamed more than seven billion hours of music this year — adding up to about 800,000 years of music and maybe a few annoying audiobook ads.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Gaga isn't Swift's lover, but she's into it if Taylor is

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

During a recent visit to Howard Stern's radio show, Lady Gaga set the record straight about her and another pop music titan. Stern pressed Gaga with, "Someone called in and said that you are now a lover of Taylor Swift's, that the two of you are making love to one another."

That guy, such a way with words. Anyway, Gaga insists there's nothing of the sort going on — although she'd be totally down if Swift wanted to give it a whirl.

"I don't think she would be into that," Gaga replied, adding later, "If she's into that, she can call me."

In a totally Gaga move, the Bad Romance singer revealed she likes Swift because Swift listens to her music, a piece of info Gaga picked up from a stylist they share. According to Gaga, Swift "was doing a shoot and he was in there styling her … and he goes, 'Taylor Swift is in here blasting Artpop so loud, and she is dancing and she is posing,' and I said to myself, 'I like this girl.'"

Twitter

@idinamenzel
I'm in awe of the moms who drop their kids off at school and actually put on a cute outfit. Pjs and biker boots for me.

@ABFalecbaldwin
I want to be ambassador to Spain. I was actually, on a soap opera.

@ConanOBrien
As we get closer and closer to the end of this tweet, I think it's important that we lower our expectations.

Michael Fassbender

Seems Michael is sweet on a surfing Swede

There's a new target for the jealous ire of all the Michael Fassbender fans out there, and her name is Alicia Vikander. Fassbender and the Swedish actress are reportedly dating after playing husband and wife in the upcoming film The Life Between Oceans. They've most recently been seen out surfing together in Australia, which I guess constitutes a date. While reps for Fassbender and Vikander declined to comment, there's always an anonymous source willing to chime in: "Michael and Alicia are casually dating, spending a lot of time together," the source tells E! News.

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The Daily Dish

COUPLE CAN'T STAY OUT OF THE KITCHEN

In a twist of fate, a local couple can't stop the urge to stay home and cook dinner after switching to new OxiClean™ Dishwasher Detergent Paks. Amy of Grand Prairie told The Daily Dish "I can honestly say WOW." And the switch didn't just impress Amy,

*"Even my husband notices the difference!"**
— Amy, Grand Prairie

"even my husband notices the difference!"* after discovering that his tough, baked on messes came out sparkling clean. Seeing the difference in how clean their dishes came out has led to a new sparkle from their dishes, and their meals together.

Mothers agree cleaner dishes save time, and their nails.

Mothers rejoiced today as it was announced that using a combination of OxiClean™ Extreme Power Crystals™ Dishwasher Detergent Paks and OxiClean™ Dishwashing 2-in-1 Booster + Rinse Agent has finally made dishes clean enough to eat off of. "This is a big win for nails everywhere" said one local woman who is no stranger to chipping baked on dirt off of cookware. Manicurists in the area have yet to comment on the matter.

Cleaning is now child's play

After a turn of events, a suburban mom is 4X happier after switching to OxiClean™ Extreme Power Crystals™ Dishwasher Detergent Paks. Seeing how easy and effective they are, without having to pre-wash, has not only cut down chore time and improved dish conditions, but also "allows me to spend more of my time with the kids instead of scrubbing dirty dishes," the mother dished. Since the switch, Noelle is spending less time in the kitchen and more time with her little ones.

*All stories depicted within this advertisement are fictional in nature. *Quotes are from real consumer reviews submitted for OxiClean™ Extreme Power Crystals™ Dishwasher Detergent Paks and OxiClean™ Dishwashing 2-in-1 Booster + Rinse Agent on ChickAdvisor.com as of November 21, 2014. Reviewers received free sample.*

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†Source: ChickAdvisor.com reviews for OxiClean™ Extreme Power Crystals™ Dishwasher Detergent Paks. Percent of chicks who "dig it" as of November 21, 2014. Reviewers received free sample.

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The boys of the bash

There's no need for a simple two-button navy blue affair this holiday season. Whether you're picking something new for a party or on the hunt for the perfect present for a sartorially savvy friend, here's our pick of the season's best suiting with a fun, festive edge.

AFP

Denim tailoring

This washed denim sport coat can be paired with a pair of crisp, white trousers for a very modern take on a classic suit look.

Brooks Brothers Washed Denim Sport Coat, $238.80, brooksbrothers.com

Holiday blues

As ever, H&M, the high-street brand, has some fun options. Try this cotton-blend blazer in an Oxford weave for an elegant light-blue solution to the Christmas party conundrum. Wear it with a thin knit or polo neck for a chic look.

H&M Slim-fit Oxford-weave Blazer, $69.95, hm.com/ca

Auld Lang Syne

This Black Watch tartan tuxedo jacket is perfect for adding a little extra fun to formal occasions. The matching wool trousers ($265) are by no means a must, but hey, why not? It's the most wonderful time of the year!

J. Crew Ludlow Tuxedo Jacket in Black Watch, $525, jcrew.com

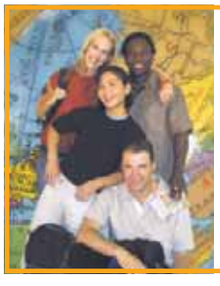
Joining fashionable forces

Theory x Mr Porter menswear capsule on sale now

Theory has designed a 17-piece capsule collection for Mr Porter, now available around the world. The clothes range from shirts, jackets and coats to trousers, and also include a couple of suiting options, all in Theory's trademark mix of minimalist designs with modern materials and technical touches.

"The simplistic elegance of this collection perfectly captures the spirit of the Theory esthetic, and their modern approach to design make this a great fit for the Mr Porter customer," outlined Mr Porter's Toby Bateman.

Key pieces include the 4-pocket field jacket in Teflon wool ($695), seen above. Prices for the collection as a whole range from $245 for the white or cotton poplin shirts, up to $1,145 for the leather jacket. AFP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Squash moves past side dish duties

Swedish Meatballs with Squash & Mushroom Stroganoff. This hearty meal will warm you up on cold nights and can be served over a few different bases

"Chef Alexandra Feswick of Toronto's Drake Hotel shared this recipe with us after we tried her version at Terroir, Canada's largest annual food symposium," write Rob Firing, Ivy Knight and Kerry Knight in their book The Everyday Squash Cook.

"Tender meatballs, sweet squash and earthy mushrooms coated in a rich sauce make for a hearty and warming meal on a chilly evening. Her secret? A pinch of cardamom. It sounds crazy but just give it a try.

"Serve over brown rice or egg noodles, garnished with a little chopped parsley."

1. In a bowl, combine the beef and pork and season with salt and pepper to taste. Using the palm of your hands, form meatballs (we make ours golf ball–size).

2. In a large, oiled saucepan over medium heat, cook the meatballs in batches until browned all over. Transfer the cooked meatballs to a plate.

3. Drain all but 1 tablespoon fat from the pan. Sauté the onion until softened, about 1 1/2 minutes. Add the mushrooms and squash and stir to combine. Stir in the butter and flour. Cook, stirring constantly, for 1 to 2 minutes, until the flour darkens. Stir in the chicken stock, then the cream and sour cream. Add the cardamom, soy sauce and allspice and stir well. Taste and adjust the seasoning with salt and pepper, if needed. Return the cooked meatballs to the pan, gently stir to combine and cook for about 5 minutes, until the squash is cooked through. If the mixture is too thick, add a splash of water or milk. Serve immediately, sprinkled with chopped parsley, if desired.

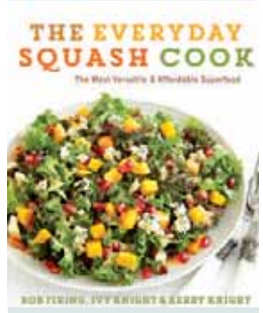
Ingredients

- 1/2 lb medium ground beef
- 1/2 lb medium ground pork
- Kosher salt and fresh cracked black pepper
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 2 large button or cremini mushrooms, chopped
- 2 cups peeled chopped butternut squash
- 2 tbsp butter
- 2 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 1 can (14 oz) chicken stock
- 1/2 cup whipping (35%) cream
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- Pinch of ground cardamom
- 1 tsp soy sauce
- 1/4 tsp ground allspice
- Chopped fresh parsley, garnish

RECIPE FROM THE EVERYDAY SQUASH COOK BY ROB FIRING, IVY KNIGHT & KERRY KNIGHT © 2014. PHOTOGRAPHY © REENA NEWMAN. PUBLISHED BY HARPERCOLLINS CANADA. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Cookbook of the Week

Squash in all its various glories

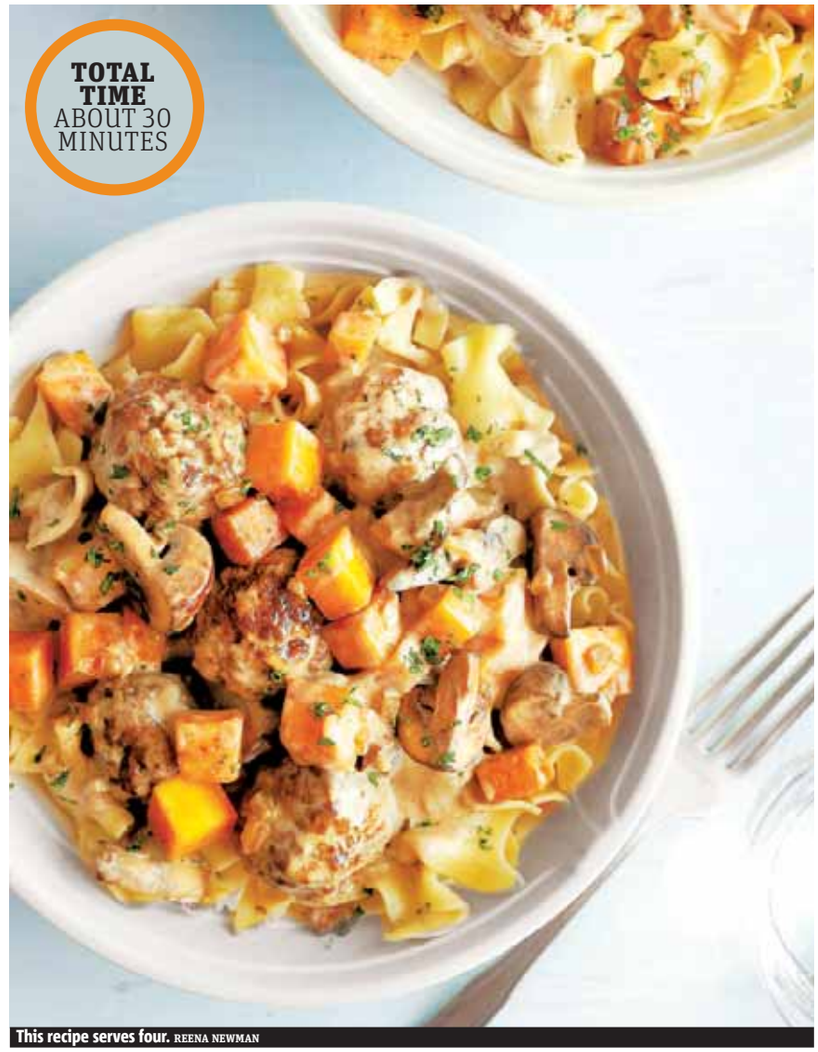


Butternut, pumpkin and acorn may be the most popular of squash, but The Everyday Squash Cook introduces us to many other varieties and ways you can enjoy them.

The release by Rob Firing, Ivy Knight and Kerry Knight features more than 100 recipes and includes tips on handling, cutting and storing squash.

Among the recipes are Squash Fried Rice, Fish and Old Bay Squash Chips, Ricotta-Stuffed Zucchini Blossoms and Butternut Cranberry Pudding Cake.

METRO



This recipe serves four. REENA NEWMAN

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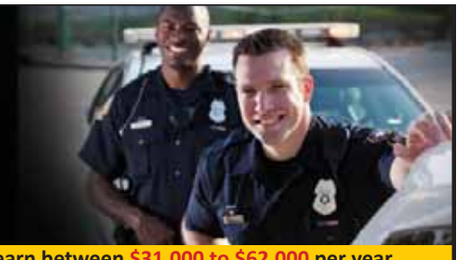

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Rugged gifts for lumbersexuals

Whether your lumberjack sleeps in a studio apartment or a log cabin, any plaid-clad beardyman will appreciate gifts that add a bit of retro style to his space this Christmas

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

The cords are stacked

Fill his sofa with pillows that give the look of a well-stocked log pile. Wood Stump Velvet Cushions, $20, Simons.ca.

Patch the woo

What happens to a lumberjack's jeans once they're worn out? Handmade Denim Patch Rug (5'x7'), $280, eCarpetGallery.com.

The scent of whiskers

Tell him to keep the beard while bringing back memories of the barber shop. Bromley Barber Shop Vanilla Shaving Cream Candle, from $10. Homesense.ca

Foam and substance

Create a dense, soft foam to top his favourite craft beer. Norm Architects MENU Beer Foamer, $33, TheBay.com.

Ready to crack open a brew

The perfect stocking stuffer for the hip beer connoisseur. John Deere Bottle Opener, $30, JohnDeere.ca.

In the grind scheme of things

Let your lumberjack chop the wood while you grind some freshly roasted coffee beans. HARIO Small Coffee Grinder, $40, Amazon.ca.

ALL PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

Festive cocktail party tips

Style gurus Steven Sabados and Chris Hyndman know hosting a cocktail party is a fabulous way to celebrate the holiday season. But without a proper plan in place, your festive affair could be forever remembered as an epic fail. They asked their resident entertaining expert Cocktail Deeva to share her tips on how to throw the ultimate cocktail soiree that will not only impress your guests, but also help you keep your cool. Steven and Chris' holiday specials air from Dec. 15-19 at 2 p.m. EST on CBC Television.

ALL TEXT PROVIDED BY STEVEN AND CHRIS. PHOTOS BY ALEXIS GLINERT.

Invitations come first

Remember, your party is only as good as your guest list, so ask yourself: • Who is coming to the party? Friends? Family? Work colleagues? Will there be kids? • If it's a work event, keep things professional and avoid mixing groups. Be clear about what kind of party it is. • Sending a paper invitation is a classy way of inviting small groups. For larger groups, send an online invitation. It's fast and effective.

Timing and food are crucial

If your party starts between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., you better be feeding your guests more than a shrimp ring! But if things get underway at 8:30 p.m. or later, serving cocktails and hors d'oeuvres is acceptable.

If you have a limited amount of finger food, arrange the items on a tray and pass it around the room. That'll ensure your Uncle Bob takes one item instead of six, as it's harder for people to pig out when someone is looking at you.

If you're going buffet style, place food in different sections of the house to keep people moving.

Place a small carton or bin in a visible place so folks have a place to throw their used picks and napkins (people always forget that one).

Make sure to give yourself time to set everything up before the party begins. Get ahead by placing dishes out days before and using labels to indicate what's going where.

Holiday Fizz Cocktail

Step 1: Make dark lemonade

Ingredients:

- 2/3 cup water
- Zest and juice of 2 lemons
- 1/4 rubbed sage
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 2 cloves
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon Kitchen Bouquet
- Carbonated water

Combine water, lemon zest, nutmeg, cloves, sage and sugar. Continually stir and boil for about a minute until the sugar is dissolved.

Remove from heat and stir in the lemon juice and Kitchen Bouquet. Let cool, then strain.

Add roughly 1/3 cup of this syrup to 1 cup of carbonated water or combine to suit your taste. If kept in the refrigerator, dark lemonade can last up to 3 weeks.

Step 2: Add the booze!

- 2 ounces dark lemonade
- 2 ounces gin
- 1 ounce soda
- Garnish with rosemary sprigs

Set the mood

Entertaining 101: Turn off those ugly lights! Strong, overhead lighting can create unflattering shadows on people's faces. Dim your lights, if you can, or use candles to make your guests glow. • Curate a music playlist that keeps the party going. Don't just plug in your personal iPod, hit shuffle and hope for the best. There's something about going from Beyoncé to Bob Dylan that doesn't feel right. • Also be mindful of what music you're playing when you want people to leave — opt for slow jams when it's time to say goodnight. • If you want to go the extra mile, load your playlist onto inexpensive USB sticks and hand them out to guests before they leave. People will love the take-home gift!

While trimmed trees and wreath-adorned doors offer an instant infusion of holiday style, these decorative displays are often dismantled mere weeks after being put in place. Design experts share tips on selecting trendy and traditional decor items that can be featured prominently well into the New Year

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bend the Yule with seasonless accents

Rustic chic. Into the woods

It's time to bring the great outdoors in-house, as nature-inspired elements are proving to have evergreen appeal.

The last five years have seen a resurgence in rusticity and reclaimed furnishings channelling the vintage, country look, said Ottawa-based interior designer and Rona expert Ulya Jensen.

For a festive twist on the trend, Jensen suggested displaying multiple cork wreaths in a front entryway that can be used beyond the season as photo or mirror frames.

From prints on pillows to forms fashioned from glass, Jensen said images of animals are "huge in decor," evidenced by whimsical woodland creatures displayed as ornaments.

"You could take a couple of the owls, a couple of the birds and set them in a little ficus tree that you might have on your condo patio for year-round," she said.

"In kids' rooms, you could make collections of them and put a bunch of the animals in shadow boxes or use them as art on the wall."

Jensen said replacing a bowl of Christmas balls with acorn ornaments can make a really nice centrepiece that conjures a "very woodsy, rustic feel. A cluster of birch tree candleholders in varying heights can also work well as a focal point in a small space, she noted.

"That would be big impact but not necessarily to have to sprawl all over the apartment to get it, but those I love because that is year-round, for sure," she said.

Birch tree candle holder
RONA HOME & GARDEN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tuckaway trees

Seeking a switch-up from the towering Christmas tree or its tabletop counterpart?

- Farfan suggested trying out a decorative, fold-down wood tree which can be painted and displayed with ornaments during the festive season, and grouped in clusters or displayed solo afterwards.
- "It doesn't have to be watered, and at the same time, after Christmas, you can carry it through and use it as an accent piece."

Christopher Decorative Tree
EQ3 FURNITURE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Forest creatures make their presence felt

A felted wool moose cushion plays right into decor's current love for anything featuring woodland animals.

HOMESENSE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Beyond tea lights

Whitewashed with an antique appeal, these metal Sadi Lanterns from EQ3 can be used as a tabletop light, patio decor or for a touch of ambient light around the house. Sandra Farfan, in-house designer at EQ3, suggested displaying berries, fern leaves or birch tree branches inside as a festive centrepiece.

EQ3 FURNITURE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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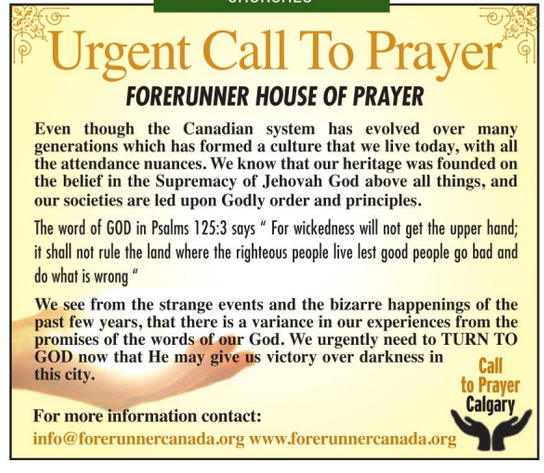
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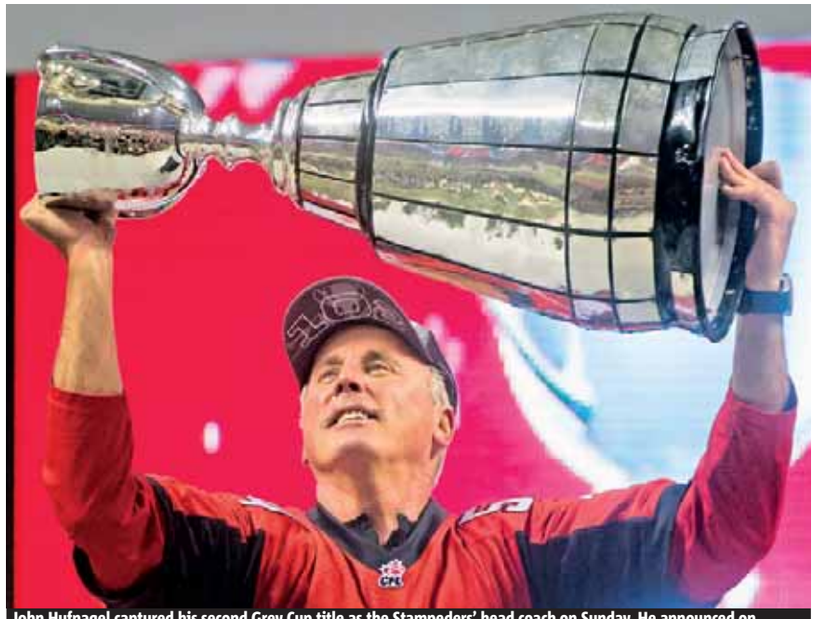
CASUAL DINING

Dickenson takes over Stamps ... in 2016

Staying put. Hufnagel rules out any moves, announces handover to Dickenson at the end of the 2015 season



John Hufnagel captured his second Grey Cup title as the Stampeders' head coach on Sunday. He announced on Wednesday he'll step down as head coach in 2016, but will stay on as general manager. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dave Dickenson says he doesn't mind waiting another year to get his first opportunity as a CFL head coach.

John Hufnagel announced Wednesday he will be back on the sidelines next season as he tries to guide the Calgary Stampeders to a second straight Grey Cup title, but he said he will hand the reins over to Dickenson, the team's offensive co-ordinator, in 2016.

"I have one more year left on the field coaching," Hufnagel said on Wednesday afternoon. "Then, Dave in Year 2 will become the head coach and I'll move up to just be the general manager."

When asked if he'd still consider talking to B.C. general manager Wally Buono about the vacant head coaching position with the Lions, Dickenson said he's not even considering that option.

Not entertaining any offers

"With that program in place, I don't think that there's a whole lot of talking necessary about another team."

Stampeders head coach and general manager John Hufnagel after announcing he'll hand over coach duties to Dave Dickenson in 2016, but stay on as general manager.

"I'm not leaving," said Dickenson, who was announced as a member of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame's 2015 class last Friday. "I've said that a million times. I'm staying here. I don't know if he's planning on calling or not. I respect Wally, love what he's done. He's been really good to me, but I'm locked in here in Calgary. I'm very happy to do that."

The Stampeders are coming off a 20-16 win over the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in Sunday's Grey Cup final. It's Calgary's second CFL title since Hufnagel took over as head coach in 2008.

"We put a lot of blood, sweat and tears into this one, man, and (it's great) for Huff to finally get one again," said linebacker Keon Raymond, who referred to Hufnagel as "probably the best coach I've ever played for in my life.

"I appreciate and I admire coach Hufnagel so much," Raymond added. "To have this opportunity to make this run with him — seven years — I'm overjoyed with."

When told of Raymond's comments, Hufnagel said he appreciated the compliment.

"It was very flattering," he said. "One thing I try to do is build a relationship within the locker-room of trust and part of that trust is them trusting me and it goes from there."

Dickenson also had high praise for the man he referred to as one of his coaching mentors.

"This is Huff's team and he's done just such a great job," Dickenson said. "I'm glad he's coming back. I told him that after the game, 'Don't do anything crazy now. Come back here.'"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB. Saunders trade all but ends Cabrera era in T.O.

The Toronto Blue Jays acquired outfielder Michael Saunders from the Seattle Mariners on Wednesday in exchange for left-hander J.A. Happ in a deal that essentially closes the door on the possibility of free agent Melky Cabrera returning to the team.

Saunders, a 28-year-old Victoria native, is expected to be the everyday left-fielder for the Blue Jays.

Happ was uneven over parts of three seasons in Toronto. He was 11-11 in 2014 with a 4.22 ERA over 158 innings.

Michael Saunders GETTY IMAGES

His departure improves Aaron Sanchez's chances of becoming a starter.

Saunders appeared in 78 games and hit .273 with eight homers and 34 RBIs for Seattle. He's shown potential but has struggled with staying healthy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

In Texas. Howe treated for dehydration: Family

Gordie Howe was hospitalized for dehydration, not another stroke, his family has said in a statement.

The fear was that the 86-year-old had another severe stroke Monday after showing diminished consciousness for more than 30 minutes, the family said.

Howe was transported to University Medical Center, in Lubbock, Texas, where an MRI revealed that he did not have another severe stroke like the one that initially hospitalized him in late October.

Gordie Howe GETTY IMAGES FILE

He is being treated for dehydration, and there are other problems with Howe's condition.

"He is having difficulty eating solid foods at this time, has slurred speech and has been unable to walk for more than three weeks now," the family said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Death of a legend

The sport of hockey was "elevated forever" by Jean Béliveau's "character, dignity and class," NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said Wednesday after the iconic player's death at the age of 83. Here are just some of the highlights from Béliveau's storied career with the Montreal Canadiens:

Stanley Cups won

17

His name is on the Stanley Cup a record 17 times, having won the mug 10 times as a player and seven as an executive.

Awards

Art Ross Trophy for most points (1956), Hart Trophy as NHL MVP (1956, 1964), Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP (1965).

Points

1,219

When Béliveau retired in 1971, he was the Habs' career leader in points with 1,219. That's 507 goals and 712 assists.

Playoff points

176

He's the NHL's all-time leading playoff scorer with 176 points in 162 games.

Jean Béliveau in April 1967. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

4 SPORTS

Giordano deserves extension, raise

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Brian Costello
calgary@metronews.ca

It's great hearing Mark Giordano's name mentioned when the topic of early Norris Trophy candidate comes up. Right now, he's favoured. There's even mention of Hart Trophy consideration. He's certainly a top-five guy at the one-third mark of the season.

So what's Giordano worth when the time comes late next summer to offer him an extension? His contract doesn't expire until after the 2015-16 season, but the Flames will want to lock up their captain long before then.

Giordano is making $4.02 million this season in the fourth year of a five-year pact signed in 2011. That doesn't even rank him among the top 50 defencemen in the league if you can believe it. At 31, Giordano is in the prime of his career and you'd have to think he can play at a very high level for the next four or five seasons.

After 26 games

Who are Calgary's top five players in percentage of team Corsi for (5-on-5)? This indicates who is generating shots at the opposition net. Included is league rank. The league leader is Minnesota's Ryan Suter at 48.22%.

18. T.J. Brodie, 39.43%
24. Dennis Wideman, 38.74%
37. Mark Giordano, 37.60%
48. Kris Russell, 37.12%
134. Sean Monahan, 33.54%

There's no hard and fast rule when a veteran's game starts to decline. Zdeno Chara was 37 last season when he finished runner-up for the Norris Trophy. Maybe he's on the way down now, but he's still easily a top-10 D-man.

So, do you offer Giordano a five-year contract that doesn't kick in until he's 33 and ends when he's 37? Absolutely. Giordano brings so many other attributes to the table — leadership, guidance, experience.

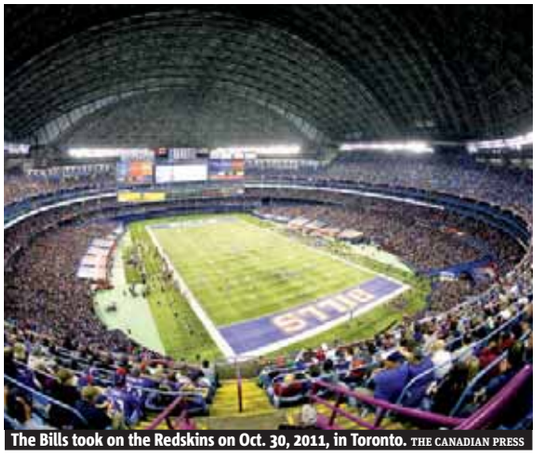
In terms of cap hit, if Giordano is a winner or one of three finalists for the Norris, he could make a case for $8 million per season. Would the Flames agree to that much or try to get him closer to $7 million?

Even if you were to take a look at Giordano's body of work over the past four seasons, you'd have to acknowledge he's been a top-20 D-man in the league (he was 10th in Norris voting last year). Of the top-10 paid defencemen in the NHL, only Chara, Shea Weber, Ryan Suter, Drew Doughty and maybe Erik Karlsson have been better in that stretch and they average about $7.2 million. I'd take Giordano over Kris Letang, Brian Campbell and Dion Phaneuf during that period. And P.K. Subban and Alex Pietrangelo, though younger, have been on a similar upward trajectory as Giordano.

I think you'll probably see something like $7.25 to $7.5 million per season on a five-year deal when the dust settles. Whatever the final number, I can't imagine the team or the player being unhappy.

Mark Giordano of the Flames makes a pass up ice as the Ducks' Corey Perry gives chase during a game at the Scotiabank Saddledome on March 26. The Flames could opt to extend their captain's contract, which expires at the end of the 2015-16 season. DEREK LEUNG/GETTY IMAGES

Bills in Toronto series sacked



The Bills took on the Redskins on Oct. 30, 2011, in Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

It started out in 2008 as a dream to bring the NFL to Canada.

But after six years of manufactured hype and lacklustre games, the Buffalo Bills in Toronto series has been blown up for good.

The Bills and Rogers Communications, who were partners, agreed on Wednesday to terminate the four remaining years left on the series.

The NFL team and Rogers had reached another deal in 2013 to extend the series for five more years, but in March, both parties announced the series was going on hiatus as they conducted reviews.

Upon hearing the news of its death, fans rejoiced on social media. One person called the series "an abomination" and another tweeted that this was the "best news so far today."

When asked for comment, the CFL's Toronto Argonauts, the Rogers Centre tenants who were always seen as main losers in this arrangement, maintained their position of not commenting.

The 2008 agreement had the Bills playing one "home" game a year in Toronto for five years through to 2012, plus three pre-season games (later reduced to two).

Drinking the Haterade

Bills players hated the series, in which they were 1-5.

- Huge numbers of fans in Western New York boycotted the series, viewing this series as a step to ultimately move the team to Toronto.

Keith Pelly, president of Rogers Media, said in a statement that "at the end of the day we've concluded that the best thing for fans on both sides of the border is to end the series."

Perhaps the fate of the series was sealed last month when neither the Bills nor the NFL approached the Rogers people about hosting the snowed-out Bills-New York Jets game. Instead, the Bills game was played Monday, Nov. 24, in Detroit.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mixed-gender duets

Synchronized swimming will feature men

Swimming world governing body FINA voted last weekend to introduce mixed-gender duets to synchronized competitions.

The decision, however, didn't come with a timetable for introducing mixed-gender synchronized swimming and synchronized diving at major international championships. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Davis Cup

Canada to play Japan in 1st round

Canada's Davis Cup tennis team will return to Vancouver for its first-round World Group tie against Japan.

The rematch of last year's first-round match, which Japan won 4-1, will take place March 6-8 at the University of British Columbia.

Canada is competing in the elite World Group of the tennis tournament for the fourth straight year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

Browns sticks with Hoyer at QB

Brian Hoyer held off Johnny Manziel again. The Browns are still his team.

Cleveland's struggling veteran quarterback kept his job and will start Sunday against Indianapolis after coach Mike Pettine decided he would be a better choice to lead the Browns down the stretch than Manziel, the super-hyped rookie who gave the team a spark last week in a loss at Buffalo. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Blackhawks beat Blues for fourth straight win

Kris Versteeg scored 59 seconds into the third period, Patrick Kane added two more goals, and the Chicago Blackhawks beat the St. Louis Blues 4-1 on Wednesday night for their fourth consecutive victory.

Marcus Kruger also scored for Chicago, and Antti Raanta had 40 saves. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Blackhawks' Kris Versteeg attempts to redirect a shot past Blues goalie Jake Allen on Wednesday in Chicago. DAVID BANKS/GETTY IMAGES

How to top a dream season

Marielle Thompson.
Sochi ski cross heroine still looking to improve despite being No. 1 in her sport

Following what some are calling a "dream season," Marielle Thompson believes she still has much more to prove.

After winning gold in women's ski cross at the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia, Thompson went on to capture her second Crystal Globe as the overall World Cup champion.

"It was kind of — people have been saying — the dream season," said Thompson, 22, from Whistler, B.C.

Thompson will begin defence of her title this weekend at the season-opening Audi FIS Ski Cross World Cup at Nakiska Ski Area outside of Calgary. "I'm just trying to build on the momentum from last year," she said. "I'm pretty young and I feel like I'm still building on my skiing and improving."

While Thompson won World Cup titles in 2012 and again last year, she has set her sights on winning gold at the 2015 world championship in Kreischberg, Austria, in late January. She still remembers finishing second behind Swiss skier Fanny Smith at the 2013 worlds in Voss, Norway.

"I still have things to do," said Thompson, who beat Smith in the final World Cup race of the season last year to capture her second Crystal Globe. "It was pretty tight, but I finished with the win. It was pretty exciting because that last final heat, if she beat me, she won the overall and if I beat her, I won the overall."

Thompson began her season last year with a World Cup win at Nakiska as she finished ahead of Smith and French veteran Ophelie David.

"Last year I started off really well with a win at Nakiska, so I hope I can make that happen again," said Thompson, who should be once again challenged by Smith and David. "The course was really fun last year and it's the same guys building it, so I'm sure it will be awesome again."

Both the women's and men's qualification runs will take place at Nakiska on Friday. "I think I get more nervous for qualifying than for racing because if you don't qualify well, you're not in the races," Thompson said. The top 16 women and top 32 men will move onto Saturday's elimination heats, which will feature four skiers racing each other down a course of jumps and bumps. The top two skiers advance to the next heat while the other two are eliminated.

"You've got to just be ready to race and lay it all on the line right away," said Calgary's Brady Leman, 28, who wants to improve on his third-place showing at Nakiska last year. "Last year was the dream season for Marielle. It was the season that almost was for me.

"I made more medal finals than anyone else. I just had a combination of really bad luck and bad performances in the medal finals. That kind of made for a so-so season."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Good times

"It was kind of — people have been saying — the dream season."
Sochi gold medallist Marielle Thompson

Marielle Thompson with her gold medal in Sochi GETTY IMAGES

Downhill skiing

Maze dominant in Lake Louise training

Tina Maze of Slovenia was fastest in training Wednesday for the first women's World Cup downhill of the season in Lake Louise.

Maze, an Olympic gold medallist in both downhill and giant slalom this year, posted a time of one minute 50.72.

Norway's Lotte Smiseth Sejersted was second in 1:51.12. She was the quickest in the first training run Tuesday.

Austria's Ramona Siebenhofer finished third in 1:52. U.S. ski star Lindsey Vonn was eighth.

Larisa Yurkiw of Owen Sound, Ont., was 46th.

A third training run is scheduled for Thursday followed by downhill races both Friday and Saturday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tina Maze of Slovakia rounds a flag during training on Wednesday in Lake Louise. MARK RALSTON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Stay calm when dealing with relationship problems. According to the planets everything will come right in the end so why upset yourself?

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Do you focus on what others expect you to do or what you want to do? Only you can decide but if you try to get the best of both worlds you may end up with neither.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
There will be opportunities to improve yourself, personally and professionally, over the next few days but there will also be challenges that force you to make far-reaching changes.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
The only thing worse than allowing yourself to be anxious about a money matter is pretending there is nothing wrong at all. A sensible balance is needed to find a solution.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You can perform an important service for a colleague today, a service that will put them in your debt. It's nice to know you can call on a favour in return.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You must control any tendency you may have to go to extremes, especially when involved in demanding physical and mental activities. Balance.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If you hope for the best today, you will get it. What you need to realize is that you always attract into your life the kind of luck you think you deserve.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may be in a serious frame of mind but not everyone shares your solemn outlook. Have you considered the possibility that they've got it right and you've got it wrong?

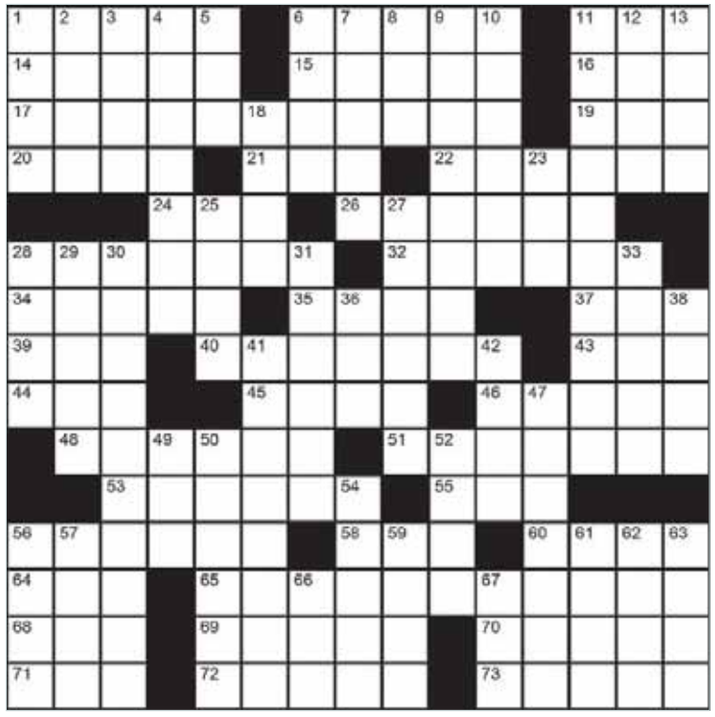
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Today's Sun-Uranus link means there are major changes on the way, changes that will benefit you in so many ways. If there is a creative project you have been toying with now is the time to get serious about it.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You are in one of your rare extravagant moods and are determined to indulge. A few days from now you may regret spending so much on so little, but for now you don't care.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
What seems a major issue to some is no more than a sideshow to you. You're in one of those moods when you can't take anything too seriously.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
What occurs over the next 24 hours will remind you not all things in life are as predictable as you might like them to be.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



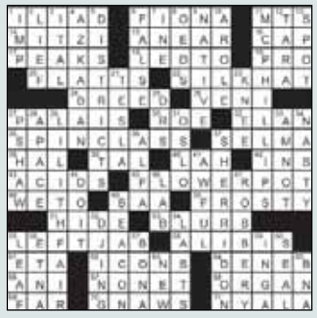
Across

1. Finely chop
6. Britney Spears, Princess __ __
11. Radio types, e.g.
14. Mid-'90s sitcom, "__ Own": 2 wds.
15. Airport arrival
16. Scoundrel
17. End a relationship: 3 wds.
19. Sash sort
20. Start to 'sack'
21. 'South' suffix
22. This battle is on!: 2 wds.
24. Tavern drink
26. Actor Gabe
28. Admiral in Antony and Cleopatra
32. Directs
34. Jean __ (Quebec pharmacy chain)
35. "The Godfather" (1972) role
37. 'Rem' ender (TV clicker)
39. Affixed, abbreviated
40. Trailblazer
43. Feminine side
44. Morse Code bit
45. 'Trick' suffix
46. Australia's gemstones
48. Dan Aykroyd's "Coneheads" (1993) character
51. Saskatchewan village; or, singer Aaron
53. Calgary band, __ and the Dark
55. Wilmington's US state
56. Safe place
58. Fruity drink
60. Chunks
64. Tokyo, formerly
65. Historic part of Quebec's largest city: 2 wds.
68. Hot Balloon link
69. "__ Gold" (1997)
70. Ron Weasley's li'l sister
71. 'Inc.' cousin
72. Cup: French
73. Haze/pollution mixtures

Down

1. Fake
2. Aerosmith's "Love __ __ Elevator"
3. The Big Easy
4. Criminal
5. Verdi aria: "__ Tu"
6. Alphabetic sequence
7. Get an 'F'
8. Gambling game, __ Gow
9. How Tiny Tim gets through the tulips: 2 wds.
10. Mortar and __
11. Canadian brand of whisky: 2 wds.
12. __ Wawa (SNL character)
13. Mix
18. Therm. reading
23. Freelancer's encl.
25. 5th Dimension's "__, __ and Away"
27. Sailor's 'backward'
28. Mil. school
29. __ _ '_' (Did fine on the exam)
30. __ House Provincial Historic Site (Home of Alberta's first Premier)
31. "_ __ sante!" (To your health!, in French)
33. Tranquil
36. Dvorak's "Symphony No. 9 __ _ Minor"
38. Massachusetts' motto starter
41. Ottawa-born country singer Kira
42. Amble
47. "Scott __ vs. the World" starring actor Michael Cera
49. Bucharest money
50. Certain canoe
52. Biblical garden
54. Titles
56. Authentic
57. Revise
59. Pharmacy quantity
61. Vintner's prefix
62. Loud sound
63. Singer Mr. Stone's
66. Cap-__-Rosiers (Village in Quebec, home of Canada's tallest lighthouse)
67. "30 Rock" sketch, '_ _ _ with Tracy Jordan'

Yesterday's Crossword

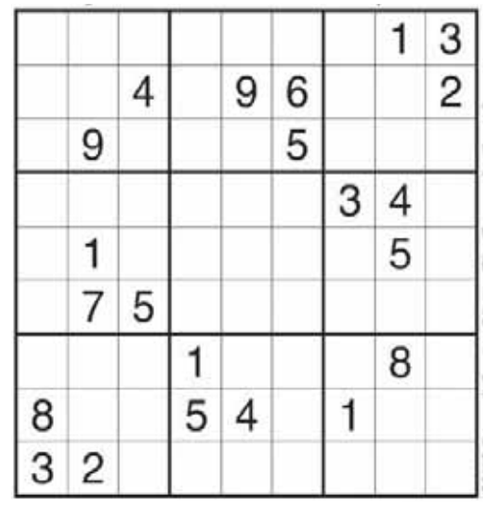


Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



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Yesterday's Sudoku

9	3	4	6	2	5	1	7	8
6	7	5	3	8	1	4	9	2
1	8	2	7	4	9	5	3	6
8	5	3	4	9	2	7	6	1
4	9	7	1	6	8	3	2	5
2	6	1	5	3	7	9	8	4
7	1	8	9	5	6	2	4	3
3	2	9	8	1	4	6	5	7
5	4	6	2	7	3	8	1	9

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Dave Jensen: 'Please stop calling me for football advice'

Football Genius.
After failing to place in the first 9 weeks of the highly-touted Coors Light Football contest, Dave Jensen of Calgary put it all on the line in week 10 taking top spot, handily beating 35,159,999 other Canadians.

After failing to place in the first 9 weeks of the highly-touted Coors Light Football contest, Dave Jensen of Calgary put it all on the line in week 10 taking top spot, handily beating 35,159,999 other Canadians.

"You know, I've been knocking on the door week after week, so I knew it was just a matter of time. You've just got to keep on doing what you've been doing, just keep on that doorstep—give it 110%."

While it may be noted that it's physically impossible to give it 110%, reports confirm that Dave did "give it his all" and has subsequently grabbed hold of the coveted Week 10 Champion of Football Predictions title.

Facing the entire nation, Dave, known locally as the "Rainman of Football", correctly predicted virtually every occurrence from week 10 pro football action, a feat previously thought impossible by industry experts. It has left competitors wondering, is Dave Jensen a genius? A football cyborg? Unequivocally, yes, to both.

Life for Dave, post-win, has been a rollercoaster ride, fielding interview requests from a number of professional football organizations including the offering of a GM role with a prospective franchise in Southern California. Of course, this is all speculation since a number of sources could neither confirm, nor deny the report. We'll have to take Dave's word for it.

"What can I say, life is pretty good when you're a champion. The sun is shining, birds are chirping." And Dave has been known to be doing a little chirping himself. Reports suggest that Dave has been calling out a number of his closest rivals, ensuring they don't forget his recent win.

When asked who he can share this victory with, Dave humbly responded: "Well, you know what they say: There's no 'I' in team. But there is a 'M' and an 'E'. That's all I need."

To claim bragging rights of your own, simply visit CoorsLightFootball.ca and predict weekly pro football action.

*Contest open to Canadian residents (excluding Quebec) who are the age of majority in their province.

Chirps From The Champ

Joe and Peter: Even Mother Nature doesn't want your teams to play

Matt and Vicki: The honeymoon is over

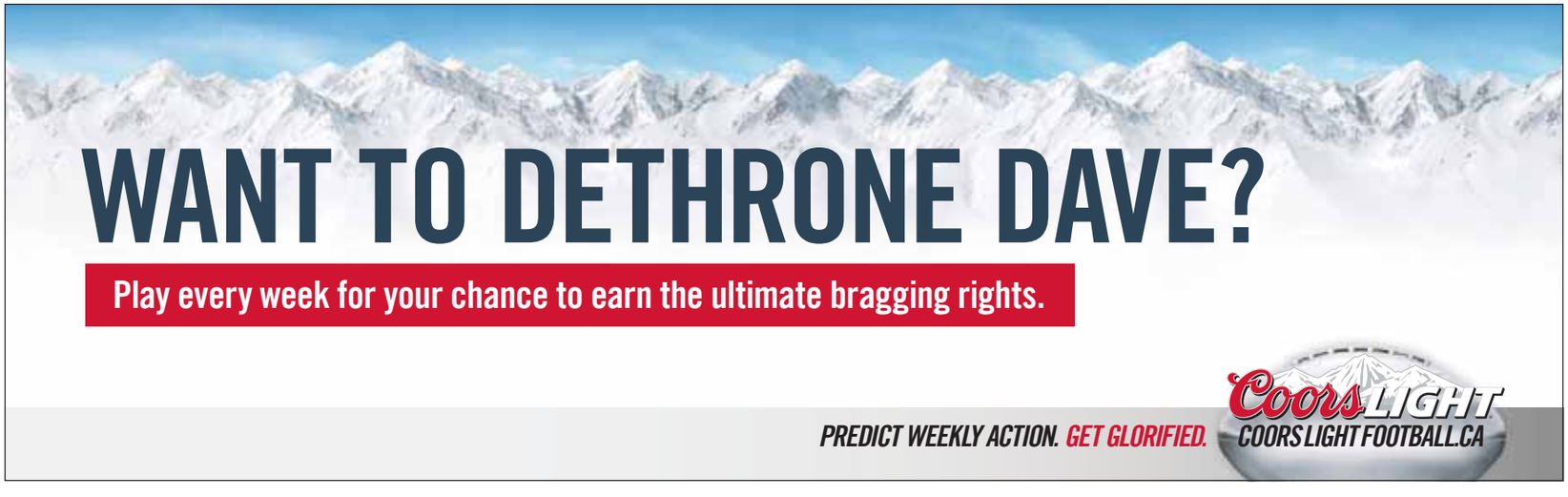
Taco: You can't draft hockey players

Anthony: Get more sleep before the draft next year

Sannes and Jenn: Maybe you can try a different sport next year

Matt: Sorry you cheer for that bird team

Football clairvoyance has but one name, and that name is Dave Jensen (pictured above). CONTRIBUTED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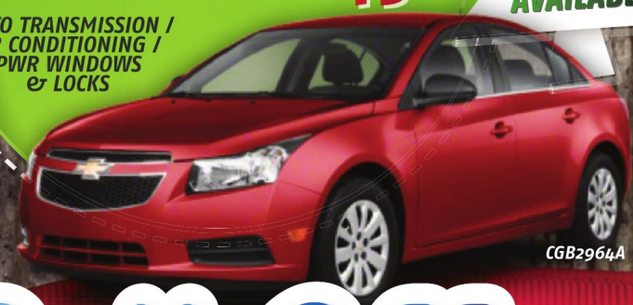

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